

NEW SALEM, ILL.  
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NEW SALEM

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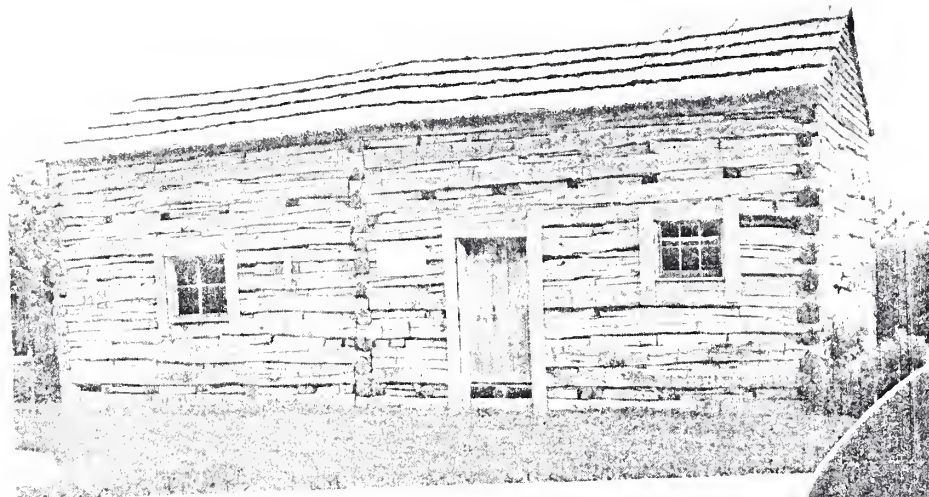
# Illinois

## New Salem

### Restoration (2)

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



A POIGNANT MEMORY IN LINCOLN'S LIFE WAS THE RUTLEDGE TAVERN HOME. REBUILT IN 1923 AT ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION NEW SALEM, ILL.

Into his heart's great jar Truth's brother poured  
Strong love for men and freedom—fatal dose!  
Some liked the wine, and some its making scored;  
One broke the jar that held his own life's need.

—CHARLES GRANGER BLANDEN



IT WAS IN THE ROUGH LITTLE STORE SHOWN BELOW THAT THE FAMOUS LINCOLN-ARMSTRONG WRESTLING MATCH WAS HELD. REBUILT AT NEW SALEM, ILL.





# Biography of Lincoln Written In Old Trails of Three States; Former Homesteads Restored

By Dorothea Kahn

Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

CHICAGO — Abraham Lincoln's biography has been told often in books; now it is being written in the trees, hills, and creeks of the three states in which he lived as child, youth and man. Thanks to modern conservationists, each year of late has seen the forest farms, where Lincoln grew up, restored more nearly to their original state, and it is now possible to get into one's automobile and study at first hand the frontier influences in Abraham Lincoln's life, and to follow the trail of his migrating family. One can rest under old trees they knew, drink at their springs, walk over the rutted grassy road young Abraham tramped, and talk with the descendants of his old neighbor who speak the quaint speech that Lincoln doubtless knew as a lad. For happily, no cities have grown up on the Lincoln home-sites.

### Three-State Tour

In a single week this February, my little car took me over the trail from Kentucky, through Indiana, into Illinois—the trail that Thomas Lincoln and his family traveled in their 20 years' migration from Hodgenville, Ky., to Coles County, Ill., and which young Abraham continued to New Salem and Springfield, the Illinois capital. It is a fascinating journey at any season, but it had a peculiar wintry charm this cold February, when snow lay gently on wooded hillsides, and cardinals and bluebirds flashed drops of color across a white world; when down-state folk had winter leisure, and time to talk about their neighbor-hood around their coal stoves.

Some time soon, it is hoped, the three states will agree on the exact route the Lincoln family took in their migration, and then they will mark it, improve the highways and make it easy for every traveler to follow. At present one must take a good Lincoln biography along if one is to be sure of the route, and at that, one can only approximate it roughly if one follows paved roads.

### Lincoln's Birthplace

We nosed our car straight for Hodgenville, Ky., Lincoln's birthplace, and found ourselves walking the snowy paths of the hilly farm where the child Lincoln took his first steps. The original cabin is enshrined in a handsome marble building that caps the original hill site, and it looks humble indeed in its palatial surroundings. Seeing my interest in its construction, one of the guards explained the technique in language probably familiar to the ears of pioneers:

"They laid the logs plumb across, left a place for the winder, filled in between the logs with red clay and sticks, made a stick-and-clay chimney, laid a roof of clapboard shakes, and held the roof down with weight poles."

To many, the cave spring that flows today just as it did when Nancy Hanks Lincoln cooled her hands in it on hot summer days seems a no less precious reminder

of the Lincolns than the cabin. I rested a moment quietly within the cave and was delighted to see small winter birds, unaware of my hidden presence, swirl down from the shrubbery above for their sips of water.

### Knob Creek Farm

From the Sunken Spring Farm the Lincoln Trail took me to another farm about nine miles away, the one known as the Knob Creek Farm, to which Thomas Lincoln moved when his boy Abe was a baby not yet three. Thomas Lincoln, I realized as I reached Knob Creek, had an eye for natural beauty and good farm land. For where could one find a lovelier spot for a home than this? A wide fertile valley, protected by six old wooded hills, surrounded the log home. On the sunny winter day of my visit snow defined the pure curves of the hills, and ice roofed the creek that still flows through the valley, but I knew that in a month or two it would show a different kind of beauty—white dogwood flashing through awakening woodland, redbud trees waving torches, crabapples shaking their wild perfume on the clean air.

But the Lincoln family could not stay here. Perhaps it was uncertainty about the title, perhaps it was a desire to move to newer country; whatever the motive, the Lincolns packed their goods one day and turned toward Indiana. Young Lincoln was then nearly eight, and his memories of this lovely Kentucky country, known as Muldraugh's ridge, must have remained with him always.

### Ohio Route in Doubt

Just what route the Lincolns took to cross the broad Ohio is a matter of much argument. Local historians have dug up valuable information, and eventually an agreement will be reached, but at present feeling runs high on this subject. I avoided taking sides by crossing the river by bridge at a point where the Lincoln family certainly did not cross. A short drive over good roads brought me to the little town of Gentryville, which Lincoln knew well, and then to the Indiana farm where Abraham lived until he was 21.

### Farm Becomes Park

Fortunately, this farm, too, still lies in undeveloped country. The small town of Lincoln City had crept over part of the farm, but the State of Indiana arranged to move the houses off and to build a new school and church on less precious ground. Already much of the farm park, more than 1000 acres, has been replanted with elms and sycamores and oaks, with dogwood and redbud such as the pioneers knew, and the cleared parts are growing wild again. There are many unspoiled parts here, too. A small white church standing in the woods, reached by a back road, is still used by the same Pigeon Baptist Church to which Thomas Lincoln belonged. The memorials erected here have

been planned to harmonize with the natural surroundings. The last one to be placed is the marker upon the site of the original cabin. It was a happy thought to mark the site not with a copy of the cabin, which could never have been adequate, but with a bronze casting of four weathered logs laid on the exact site of the original four, with a casting of the original fireplace taken from cobblestones found buried on the site.

### Trudge for Law Books

There was much to be seen here on the more than 1000 acres the State is reforesting with the aid of CCC workers. But I could not linger, for I wanted to take the 17-mile route to Rockport, on the Ohio River, over which Lincoln trudged when he went to borrow law books from Judge Pitcher.

Speeding over the concrete (the slab road, old-timers here call it) I soon found myself in the delightful pioneer village which the town has built with the aid of FERA and CCC labor. George Honig, a sculptor of note and a native of Rockport, has directed the work without pay, rejoicing in an opportunity to carry out a dream he has had for years, a dream of building a complete village of the type Lincoln knew.

Work is going on now, under an additional \$20,000 federal appropriation to complete the project, including a lake, upon which a model of Lincoln's flatboat will float, like the one he piloted from Rockport to New Orleans.

### Entering Illinois

And now I turned toward Illinois. My Lincoln trail took me to Vincennes, Ind., where the pioneer family is believed to have ferried across the Wabash, at a point now spanned by the handsome George Rogers Clark Memorial bridge. From here I drove to Charleston, Ill., near which lies the last farm cleared and owned by Thomas Lincoln. Illinois has taken the restoration task in hand, and is now directing the work of CCC youths who are building a copy of the cabin, and buying up hand-split weathered rails from the farmers round about to put a rail fence around the property. One touch of pioneer life has remained unspoiled and needs no restoration. It is the big lilac bush at the cabin doorstep, the off-spring of a bush some beauty-loving pioneer wife planted in front of her crude home. Was it Sarah Johnston Lincoln, Abraham's kind and beloved step-mother who planted the first lilac root here?

### Lincoln's Visit Recalled

This cannot be answered, but it is a historic fact that the stepson returned here, after he was elected President, to visit Sarah Lincoln. Charleston remembers that.

Now on to New Salem. Lincoln left his father's roof soon after the family moved here, and entered upon adult life in a little village then a good day's walk from Springfield, but now a half hour's drive. Here, on a charming wooded ridge above the deep-lying Sangamon River, Lincoln studied law, ran the store and the post office (carrying the mail in his hat as he went about); here he met Ann Rutledge; here he started on his political career as a member of the Illinois Legislature.

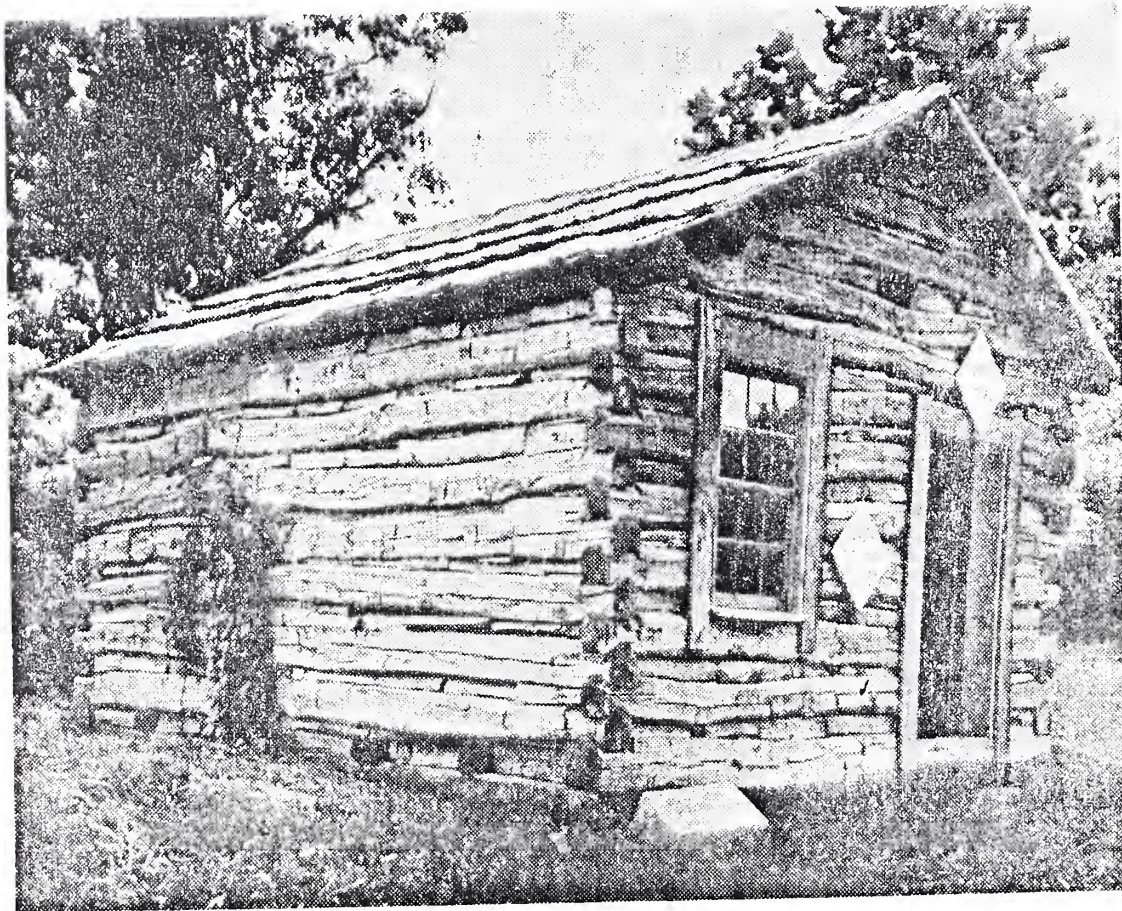
### Town Being Restored

It seems little short of wonderful that the residents of New Salem

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## This Is Where "Honest Abe" Kept Store



Among the pioneer buildings in the reconstructed village of New Salem, Ill., is the Offut store, scene of the historic wrestling match between Lincoln and one of the Cary's Grove gang.



## Interior Of A New Salem Home

Oct 18 Journal - 6/30/36



The photograph shows an interior view in the restored residence of Dr. John Allen at New Salem state park near Petersburg. Doctor Allen, and his colleague, young Doctor Regnier, were valued members of the pioneer community. They

worked under hardships, for the frontiersmen only called in a physician when home remedies had failed. Allen also organized a Temperance society and was the founder of the first Sunday school in New Salem.

ANNOUNCING THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL LECTURES  
ON HISTORICAL SITES IN ILLINOIS

\* \* \* \* \*

"A TRIP THRU NEW SALEM STATE PARK "

A LINCOLN SHRINE IN ILLINOIS"

An illustrated lecture completely descriptive of the history of the village of New Salem and its restored cabins, located between Petersburg and Springfield, Illinois; prepared and delivered by Jack W. Worth, motion picture producer, author, and historian.

This park is being fully restored by the State of Illinois, and is attracting a constant stream of visitors from the entire United States. It bids fair to become second only to Mt. Vernon, the home of Washington. It abounds in Lincoln Lore, having been the home of Abraham Lincoln from 1831 to 1837, and it was here that he spent his formative years.

This lecture is now available and being offered as an instructive entertainment feature of 45 minutes duration. If you are interested in obtaining it, please advise the number of prospective audience, and fee will be quoted. To groups interested in sponsoring a public, and paid admission showing, we have a special plan to offer.

Address: WORTH EDUCATIONAL FILMS,  
PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS.

Irene Nicholson, Secy.

NOTE: FOR RELEASE JANUARY 1st, 1937.

"The Story of the Grave." Lecture, Motion Picture Illustrated, of the life of the Mound Builders of Illinois, as determined from the Dickson Culture, Dickson Mounds, Lewistown, Illinois, re-enacted by living characters.



# Along The Lincoln History Trail

Marked By Memorials,  
Parks And "Villages" It  
Extends From Kentucky  
Into Illinois

"Cradle" Log Cabin Near  
Hodgenville Now En-  
cased In Magnificent  
Building Of Granite

NEW SALEM, Ill. — EACH recurring anniversary of his birth finds more Americans showing a deep interest in the personal history of Abraham Lincoln. The obvious reason for this is the automobile and highways which enable auto tourists to follow what is known as the "Lincoln History Trail." It begins a short distance from Hodgenville, Ky., crosses the Ohio river at Rockport, Ind., thence to New Salem, Ill., and ends at Springfield, Ill.

The trail is "blazed" by memorials, national and State parks, "Lincoln villages," monuments and other Lincolniana, which by the simple process of visual education teaches the intimate personal history of Lincoln from his birth to the day he left Springfield for Washington to become President.

## NEAR BIRTHPLACE

Hodgenville is an agricultural community about two and a half miles from the "cradle" log cabin in which Lincoln was born, February 12, 1809. The crude structure has been restored and encased in a magnificent granite memorial building preserved for posterity. The money for its building was raised through popular subscription by the Lincoln Farm Association.

The homestead is now a national park and every effort has been made to keep the place as it was 128 years ago. The cabin, memorial building and homestead were accepted for the nation by President Wilson, September 14, 1916, in the presence of 40,000 people. It is one of the nation's shrines and has become a popular tourist attraction. In Hodgenville is a heroic bronze statue of Lincoln, the work of A. A. Weinman, a pupil of St. Gaudens.

## LINCOLN PIONEER HOME

In the fall of 1816, when "Abe" was 7 years old, his father, Thomas, and mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, moved to Spencer county, Indiana, where the family began clearing the forest for a farm about seventeen miles above Rockport. The homestead is one of the "blazes" identifying the Lincoln history trail. Here Lincoln, the lad, was a youthful Indiana pioneer for fourteen strenuous years.

The first home was a temporary structure made of saplings, open to the weather on one side and known as a half-front camp. The following year a log cabin, without windows, door or wooden floor, was put up. Here "Abe" helped his father, did odd jobs for neighbors, working for 25 cents a day; here he read the few books he could borrow, sprawled before the log fire. Here his mother died and was buried in the forest by her husband and son.

## GRAVE NEGLECTED

For many years her grave was neglected, but now it is marked by the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial. Adjoining is the Lincoln State Park which includes the original homestead and log cabin site. The cabin long since has gone to dust but its memory lives in an eight-ton bronze fireplace with its logs and ashes, standing on the old cabin site in the forest. And to this area come the Lincoln pilgrims, thousands of men, women and children, who tour Spencer county, to view the Lincolniana of which the "Lincoln Pioneer Village" at Rockport is the popular exhibit.

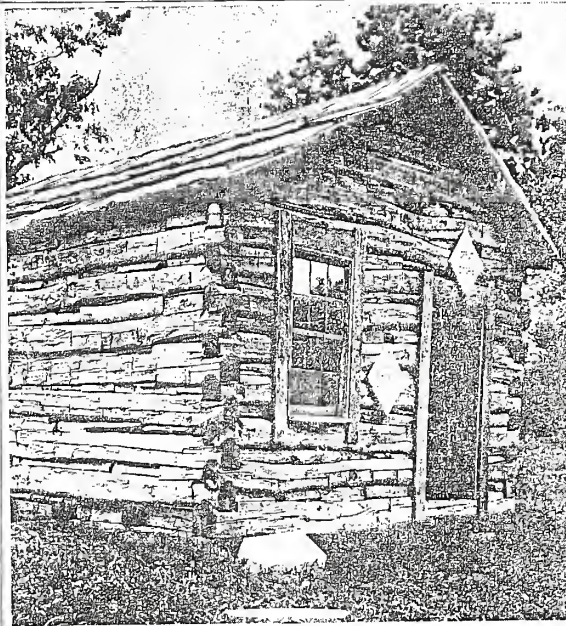
This village, dedicated July 4, 1935, is a group of log houses, replicas of the sort that were put up by the Spencer county pioneers a century ago and which had been "touched" by young Abe Lincoln, giving them the intimate quality which qualified them to be "restored" as units of the village. A copy of the Lincoln home cabin is here and one also of the old Pigeon Creek Baptist Church which Tom Lincoln and his son helped to build.

## EARLY EDUCATION

A reconstruction of the Azel Dorsey home is a most important unit of the collection. Dorsey, a county official at the time, kept school in his home and there the Lincoln lad was given some rudimentary education. Another feature of the village is the replica of the two-story log house of Daniel Grass, founder of Rockport.

In the touring season, the roads leading to Rockport are filled with motor cars hurrying the Lincoln pilgrims to the Pioneer Village and Lincoln State Park. Most of the cars carry Indiana and Illinois license plates, for these States probably are more strongly Lincoln-minded than are their sister States.

In 1830, the Lincolns, with two neighboring families, started in ox carts for Illinois, with young Abraham, now 6 feet 4 inches tall and entering manhood, as chief teamster. After helping them settle on Illinois prairie land, he started out on his own and, after a time, found himself in the mushroom hamlet of New Salem, Ill., on the Sangamon river, about twenty miles



Offutt store where Lincoln clerked and before which he engaged in the wrestling match

work in the store of Denton Offutt, for whom he made a successful flatboat-trading trip to New Orleans.

Here he lived for six years, successively a clerk and mill hand, captain of a company in the Black Hawk war, storekeeper, postmaster and deputy surveyor. Here he entered politics; defeated in his first campaign for the Legislature, he was elected to the Illinois House in 1834 and 1836.

**STRENGTH WINS RESPECT**  
At the time New Salem was a rough and tumble place and Lincoln's amazing strength won him great respect as a wrestler and fighter. His historic fights with members of the Cary's Grove gang won the friendship of the bullies. In New Salem he met and loved, and won the love of, his first sweetheart, Ann Rutledge, whose death was his first great sorrow. It was here that he accidentally found in the bottom of an old barrel a copy of Blackstone. He himself said afterward that this lucky happening started him studying law.

At New Salem the State of Illinois has built a Lincoln village, an authentic restoration of the town which died soon after Lincoln left it to go to Springfield. It is appraised as one of the finest and most comprehensive collections of early American and pioneer relics ever assembled. The Outpost cooper shop, where Lincoln studied law at night, is the only original building standing today, but a score of other houses and four shops have been faithfully reproduced and furnished as they were in 1831.

**SPRINGFIELD RELICS**  
Most tourists to New Salem include Springfield in their itinerary. Lincoln moved to the capital from New Salem in 1837 and here he grew to national stature and here is his tomb, the most sacred place in the Prairie State. In Springfield he practiced law, married and came to live in the only home he ever owned.

The Lincoln monument, tomb and memorial hall are in Oak Ridge Cemetery, visited during the year by tens of thousands of Americans and hundreds of distinguished foreigners. The city of Springfield was so intimately associated with Lincoln that visitors will find scores of markers on office buildings, stores, houses and public buildings which attest the historic value of the places.

At Springfield the Lincoln history trail ends. Lincoln sat in his home with Mrs. Lincoln the evening of November 6, 1860, and received the word that he had been elected President, and in that house he bade farewell to his home folk to journey to Washington to become President of the United States and achieve the sacred heights reserved for martyrs.



(Continued from Page 1.)

# Many Shrines Welcome Pilgrims Who Revere Memory of Lincoln

By MALCOLM McDOWELL.  
(Copyright, 1937, By NANA Inc.)  
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(Concluded on Page 4.)

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### A Reconstructed Village.

This village, dedicated July 4,  
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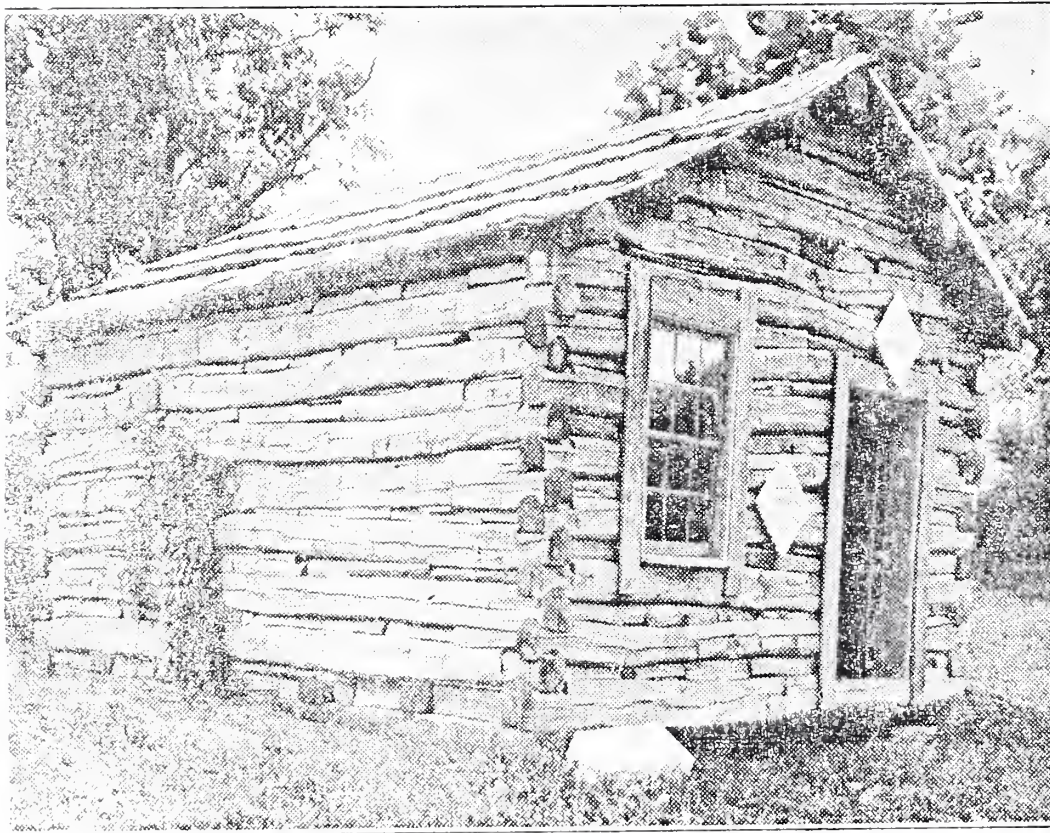
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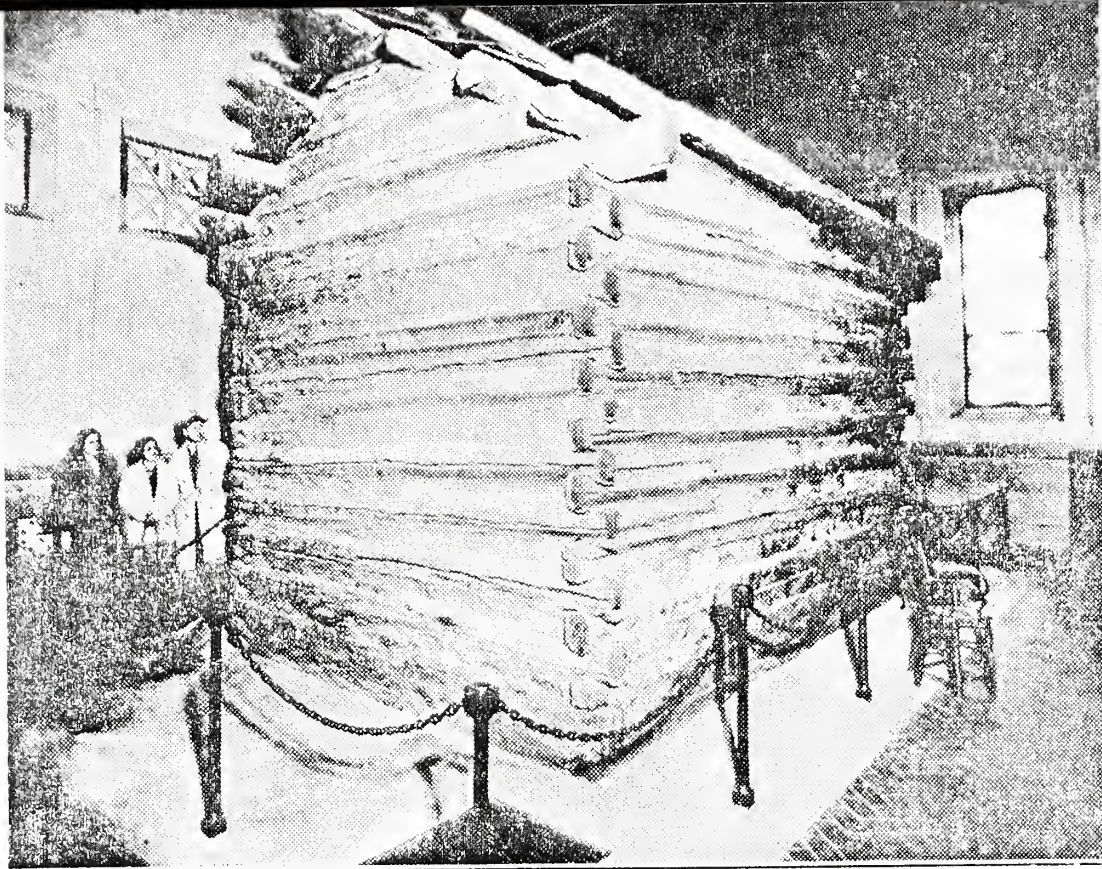
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The log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born, about two and a half miles from the little town of Hodgenville, Kentucky. It is enclosed in a monumental granite building.

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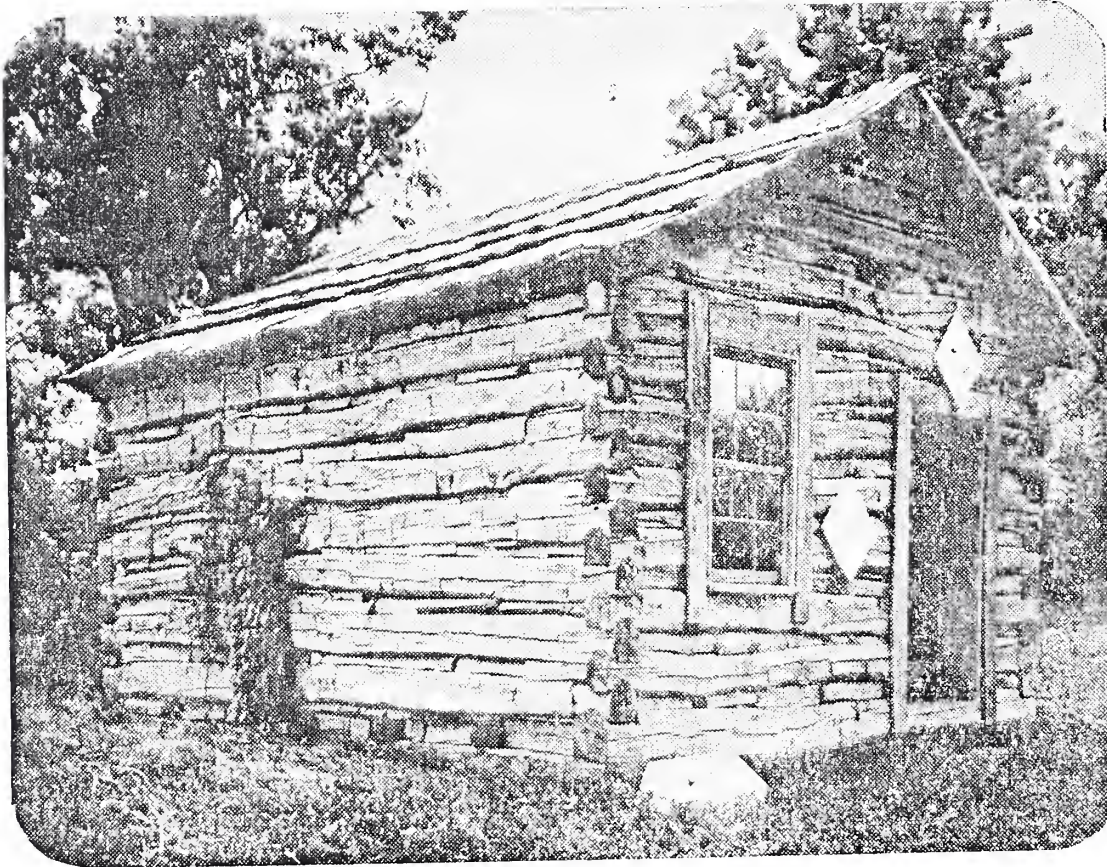
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ON GLOBE—WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1937

# Along the Lincoln Trail

## Where He Kept Store and Met His First Sweetheart



WHERE "HONEST ABE" KEPT STORE

Among the pioneer buildings in the reconstructed village of New Salem, Ill., is the Offutt store, scene of the historic wrestling match between Lincoln and one of the Cary's Grove gang.

By MALCOLM McDOWELL

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(Copyright, 1937, N. A. N. A., Inc.)



ATCH  
**MILL WHERE LINCOLN  
WORKED TO BE REBUILT**

Old New Salem, Ill., Dam  
Upon Which His Boat Be-  
came Stuck Also to Be  
Restored.

By the Associated Press.

NEW SALEM, Ill., Feb. 12.—The water-driven grist mill where Abraham Lincoln once worked and the old dam at New Salem are to be restored to actual working condition.

Reconstruction of the mill is to be started this year, State officials say, as another of the numerous memorials to Lincoln, whose 128th birthday anniversary is being observed today.

The rebuilding of the mill on the banks of the Sangamon River will be one of the final steps in the restoration of the village of New Salem.

Historians say the dam itself was responsible for Lincoln stopping here and later returning to become one of the village residents. Their version of the incident:

One day in April, 1831, Lincoln, then 22, and three other men were guiding a flatboat loaded with salt pork, flour and corn meal down the Sangamon River enroute to New Orleans.

**Stream at Low Stage.**

The stream was at low stage and the boat became stuck on the dam here, one end tilting up in the air and the other shipping water. Under Lincoln's directions, the cargo was transferred to a ferry operating below the dam and the boat righted.

Going ashore, Lincoln borrowed an auger with which he bored a hole in the bottom of the boat to let the water out. He plugged up the hole and with the aid of the others managed to float the boat over the dam. The craft was then reloaded and the journey resumed.

Denton Offutt, Lincoln's employer on the trip, was impressed with the location of the village and the opportunities he believed it afforded. A few months later he returned, established a grocery and rented the mill, placing Lincoln in charge of them.

**Mill and Dam Disappear.**

Both the mill and the dam disappeared long ago, but CCC workers last summer unearthed what historians believe is the foundation of the original mill, along with tools and gears. The first mill, built in 1829 as a combined grist and saw mill, burned and was rebuilt as a grist mill

only. Later it also burned and never was replaced.

The village of New Salem, where Lincoln clerked in stores, served as postmaster, studied law and started his political career, was abandoned and disappeared. New Salem now has been restored to its frontier form as a State Park and Lincoln Memorial.

Department of Public Works and building officials, who have charge of the reconstruction work, are searching through historical documents in an effort to obtain information to aid in drafting plans conforming as nearly as possible to the mill Lincoln operated.

### A LINCOLN MILL TO LIFE.

Place Where He Once Worked on Sangamon River to Be Restored.

(By the Associated Press.)

NEW SALEM STATE PARK, ILL., Feb. 11.—The water-driven grist mill where Abraham Lincoln once worked, and the dam which caused his first visit to the village of New Salem, are to be restored to actual working conditions.

Reconstruction of the mill is to be started this year, state officials said today, as another of the numerous memorials to Lincoln, whose 128th birthday anniversary will be observed tomorrow.

The rebuilding of the mill on the banks of the Sangamon River will be one of the final steps in the restoration of the vanished village of New Salem. *James, et al. 2/12/57*

Buffalo Evening News 2/1/37

By MALCOLM McDOWELL

Copyright, 1937, by BUFFALO EVENING NEWS and North American Newspaper Alliance.

**NEW SALEM, Ill., Feb. 12.**—Each recurring anniversary of the birth of the Great Emancipator finds more Americans showing a deep interest in the personal history of Abraham Lincoln. The obvious reason for this is the automobile and highways which enable auto tourists to follow what is known as the "Lincoln History Trail." It begins a short distance from Hodgenville, Ky., crosses the Ohio river to Rockport, Ind., thence to New Salem, Ill., and ends at Springfield, Ill.

The trail is "blazed" by memorials, national and state parks, "Lincoln villages," monuments and other Lincolniana which, by the simple process of visual education, teach the intimate personal history of Lincoln from his birth to the day he left Springfield for Washington to become president.

Hodgenville is an agricultural community about two and a half miles from the "cradle" log cabin in which Lincoln was born, Feb. 12, 1809. The crude structure has been restored and encased in a magnificent granite memorial building preserved for posterity.

#### HOME KEPT INTACT

The homestead is now a national park and every effort has been made to keep the place as it was 128 years ago. The cabin, memorial building and homestead were accepted for the nation by President Woodrow Wilson, Sept. 14, 1916, in the presence of 40,000 people.

In the Fall of 1816, when "Abe" was seven years old, his father, Thomas, and mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, moved to Spencer county, Ind.

The first home was a temporary structure made of saplings, open to the weather on one side and known as a half-front camp. The following year a log cabin, without windows, door or wooden floor, was put up. Here "Abe" helped his father, did odd jobs for neighbors, working for 25 cents a day; here he read the few books he could borrow, sprawled before the log fire. Here his mother died and was buried in the forest by her husband and son.

#### MOTHER HONORED

For many years her grave was neglected, but now it is marked by the Nancy Hanks Lincoln memorial. Adjoining is the Lincoln State park, which includes the original homestead and log cabin site. The cabin long since has gone to dust but its memory lives in an eight-ton bronze fireplace, with its logs and ashes, standing on the old cabin site in the forest.

And to this area come the Lincoln pilgrims, thousands of men, women and children, who tour Spencer county, to view the Lincolniana of which the "Lincoln Pioneer Village" at Rockport is the popular exhibit.

This village, dedicated July 4, 1935, is a group of log houses, replicas of the sort that were put up by the Spencer county pioneers a century ago and which had been "touched" by young Abe Lincoln, giving them the intimate quality

which qualified them to be "restored" as units of the village.

#### FAMILY MOVES

In 1830 the Lincolns, with two neighboring families, started in ox-carts for Illinois, with young Abraham, now six feet four inches tall, and entering manhood, as chief teamster. After helping them settle on Illinois prairie land, he started out on his own and, after a time, found himself in the mushroom hamlet of New Salem, Ill., on the Sangamon river, about 20 miles northwest of Springfield. He found work in the store of Denton, Offutt, for whom he made a successful flat-boat trading trip to New Orleans.

Here he lived for six years, successively a clerk and mill hand, captain of a company in the Black Hawk war, storekeeper, postmaster and deputy surveyor.

#### VILLAGE BUILT

At the time New Salem was a rough-and-tumble place and Lincoln's amazing strength won him great reputation as a wrestler and fighter. His historic fights with members of the Cary's Grove gang won the friendship of the bullies.

At New Salem, the state of Illinois has built a Lincoln village, an authentic restoration of the town which died soon after Lincoln left it to go to Springfield. It is appraised as one of the finest and most comprehensive collections of early American and pioneer relics ever assembled. The Onstot cooper shop, where Lincoln studied law at night, is the only original building standing today.

#### TRAIL ENDS

Most tourists to New Salem include Springfield in their itinerary. Lincoln moved to the capital from New Salem in 1837 and here he grew to national stature and here is his tomb, the most sacred place in the Prairie state. In Springfield he practiced law, married and came to live in the only home he ever owned.

The city of Springfield was so intimately associated with Lincoln that visitors will find scores of markers on office buildings, stores, houses and public buildings which attest the historic value of the places.

At Springfield, the Lincoln history trail ends. Lincoln sat in his home with Mrs. Lincoln the evening of Nov. 6, 1860, and received the word that he had been elected president, and in that house he bade farewell to his home folk to journey to Washington to become president of the United States and achieve the sacred heights reserved for martyrs.

**LINCOLN HISTORY TRAIL LURES THOUSANDS OF U. S. TOURISTS**  
Memorials for Great Emancipator Begin at Hodgenville, Ky., End at Springfield, Ill.

**Throngs Visit New Salem—**

# Lincoln Shrine Being Restored

## W. R. Hearst Gift Aids Illinois Project

(Pictures on Back Page.)

BY CHARLES N. WHEELER.

Reverently throngs gathered at New Salem State Park, near Petersburg, in Menard County, yesterday to observe the one hundred and twenty-eighth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

New Salem's restoration has progressed rapidly the past year.

Nearly all the cabins and store buildings in the center of the hallowed site are today the exact replicas of the primitive ones associated with Lincoln's early formative years from 1831 to 1840.

Within a comparatively short time the entire village will arise again along the wooded shore of the Sangamon River just as it was when young Abe whaled the Clary hill bullies, courted Ann Rutledge and made a wretched failure of his mercantile ventures.

### LED IN RESTORATION.

Preservation of the site was due to the interest and munificence of William Randolph Hearst.

With a view to making this one of the nation's shrines, the publisher some years ago purchased the historic town site and added to it many beautiful acres along the winding river.

The first activities looking to the restoration centered in a Chautauqua which attracted many visitors from all sections of the country. As the fame of the place grew, Mr. Hearst and other Lincoln admirers suggested a state park.

Subsequently Mr. Hearst deeded the property to the state with the understanding that it should be maintained and developed as a public park calculated to increase interest not only in Lincolniana, but in the emancipator's contribution to human liberty.

### DRAWS BIG CROWDS.

The original objective has been more than realized already, according to William C. Young, the park custodian.

With generous aid from the state, the work of restoration has gone forward rapidly.

It is the tremendous increase in public interest, both in this country and abroad, that Mr.

Young underscores.

As high as 35,000 persons visited the site in a single month last Summer. In one week, forty-two states and six foreign countries were represented by the visitors.

And even in the severest Winter days there are pilgrims from far and near viewing the restored cabins and discussing reverently the great character fashioned in these early days of poverty and hardships.

### 16 CABINS RESTORED.

Reporting on the progress to date, Mr. Young said:

"At the present time sixteen cabins have been restored, ten of which are furnished entirely with furnishings and implements of the New Salem period.

"By many it is claimed to be the finest and best collection known. Many pieces originally were used by the New Salem residents. This is especially true of the Sam P. Hill residence."

Many of the donations were made by descendants of the pioneers who grew up with Lincoln. Among these are heirlooms of great value.

Mrs. George Warnsing of Petersburg and her assistants have succeeded in locating and securing for the museum many of the rarer pieces and mementoes of the early days.

### OLD WELLS FOUND.

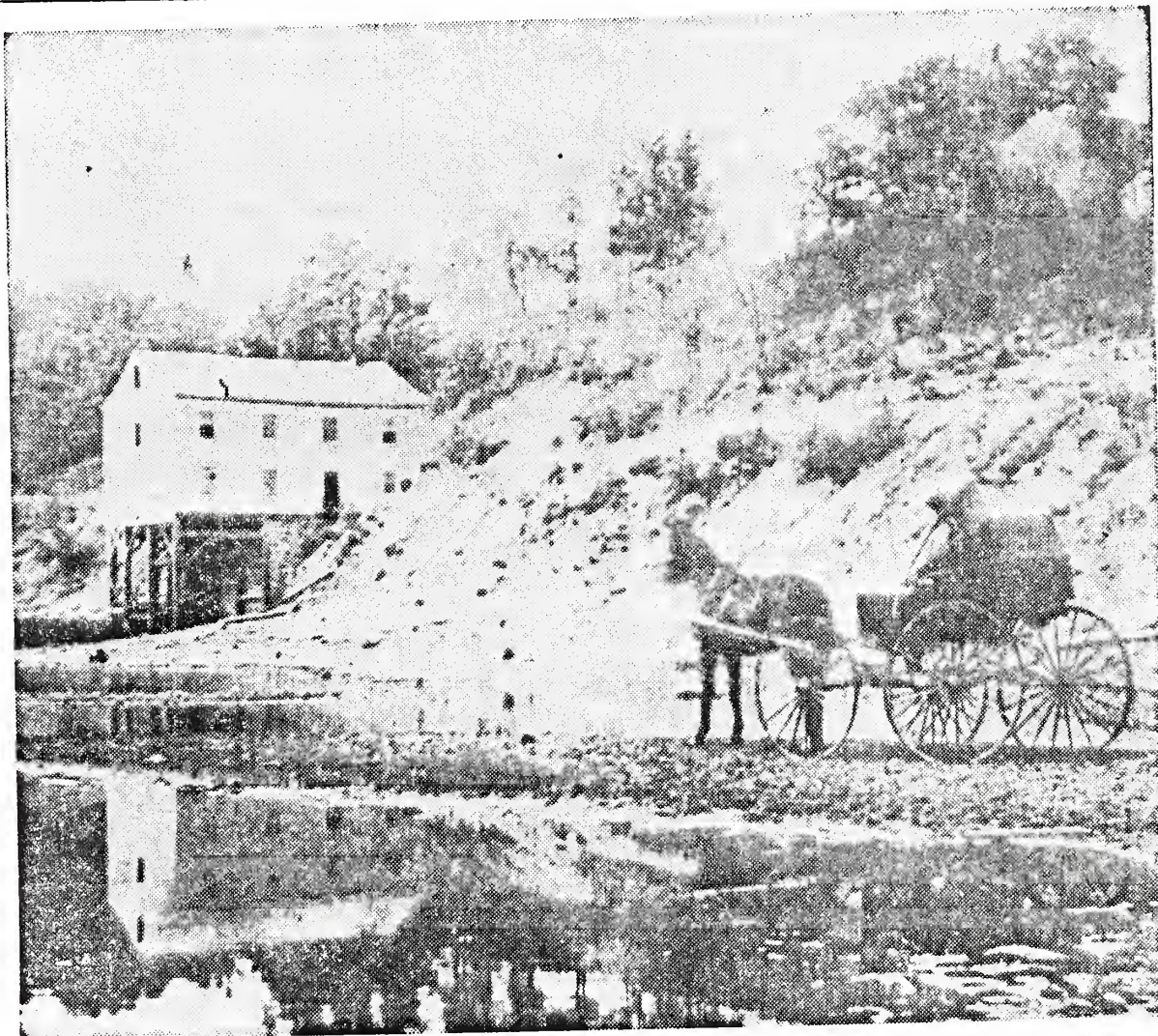
Custodian Young reported that eight of the old wells have been located, cleaned and rewalled. In this work the restorationists unearthed many interesting relics, such as deer antlers, shoe soles with Roman numerals and an old oaken bucket preserved almost completely.

The bucket was found in the well just outside the Lincoln-Berry grocery, a considerable part of said grocery's stock consisting of corn liquor.



Ill. State Journal 5/28/31

## New Salem Mill Had Foundation Rich In Lincoln Lore



Shown in this picture is the New Salem mill. The Rutledge and Cameron mills, of which Abraham Lincoln had charge at one time, stood on the same spot as the mill in the picture and had the same foundation. James Rutledge was the father of Ann Rutledge, whom Lincoln loved.

## BOYHOOD TOWN OF LINCOLN IS BEING REBUILT

New Salem Park, Ill., Will Be  
Dedicated June 17; Site Is  
Donated by Mr. Hearst

By Charles N. Wheeler

(Special to Los Angeles Examiner)

CHICAGO, June 6.—Interest in dedication of the Rutledge Tavern at New Salem Park near Petersburg, Ill., on June 17 has become nationwide.

Because of the easy access to the site, throngs are motoring to Petersburg, where Ann Rutledge is buried near the cabins. Inquiries from all sections indicate the interest in the restoration, anticipated when William Randolph Hearst purchased the site and turned it over to the state.

Those in charge of the observance expect the largest attendance since the village of Abraham Lincoln's youth has arisen in its primitive exactness. Preparations are being made to care for all who come to join in rededicating themselves to the Lincoln ideals and to witness the pageant of the 1830's.

### RURAL LANDSCAPE

The visitors will see one of the most beautiful rural landscapes in the country. Abundant rains have produced gorgeous foliage and fields waving with grain.

Restored New Salem, loveliest village of Lincoln days, is a picture for artists to rave over.

Nature is putting on a lavish display over the wooded knoll where the historic village rises. The maple at Ann Rutledge's grave is a symphony in green.

Wild flowers fill the countryside with fragrance and a riot of color.

### RUGGED TIMBER

Along the winding river banks, rugged timber speaks Bryant's "various language" of primitive scenes when "Honest Abe" bored the hole in the boat to get it over the Rutledge-Cameron dam.

Turning back to the village, the throngs will see sixteen restored cabins and stores, and within them more than 4000 furnishings of the 1830-37 period, many of them used by Lincoln and the villagers.

This is especially noted in the Rutledge Tavern, the dedication of which is the high note in this year's homage to Lincoln and his contributions to the definitions of justice, truth and beauty.



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## Lincoln Village Lives Again

On the banks of the Sangamon river, in Illinois, today is being dedicated the restoration of the village of New Salem, where Abraham Lincoln spent some years of his young manhood, and where he wooed Ann Rutledge, only to have her snatched away by the hand of death before the marriage.

**The old village, which had entirely disappeared during the years, has been restored, and in today's dedication it will stand as authentic replicas of the cabins, stores and rude industrial buildings of the era.**



Part of the restored village of New Salem, once Lincoln's home.

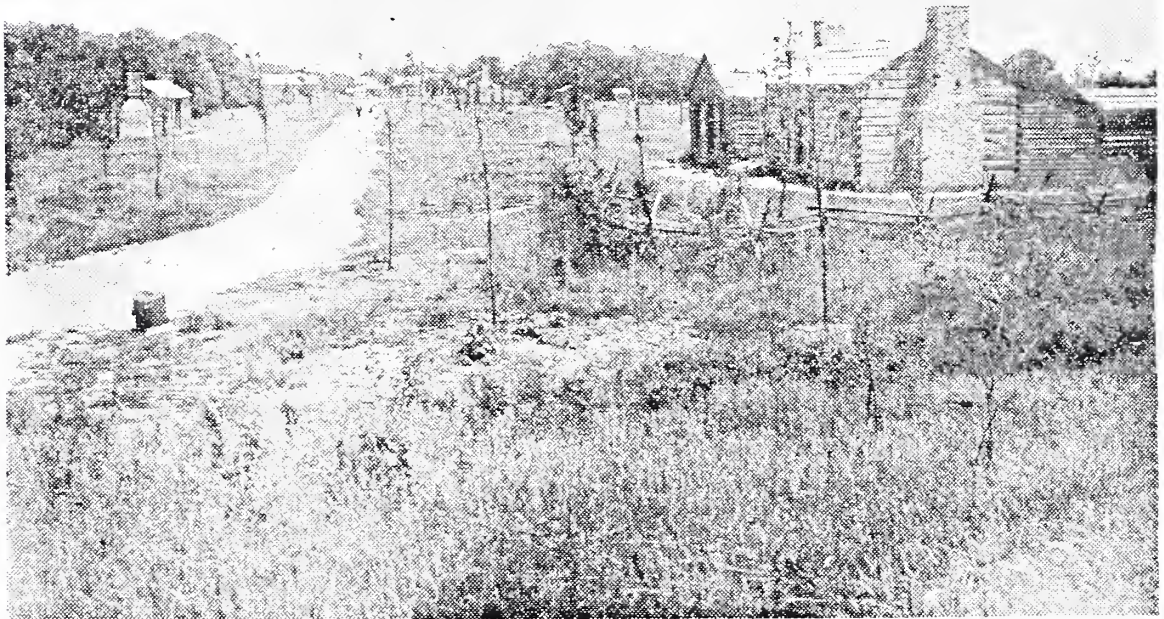
The 16 structures in the restoration represent practically all on the site when Abe Lincoln knew it.

The New Salem Park, which has been expanded to about 200 acres, was made possible by William Randolph Hearst, who purchased the site of the village and later deeded it to the state to be preserved forever as a national shrine.

**Thus the memory of the martyr President who freed the slaves will be intertwined with one of the world's great love stories—and the shrine will be visited by multitudes of patriotic Americans as the years pass.**

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## *Here Lincoln Once Made His Home*



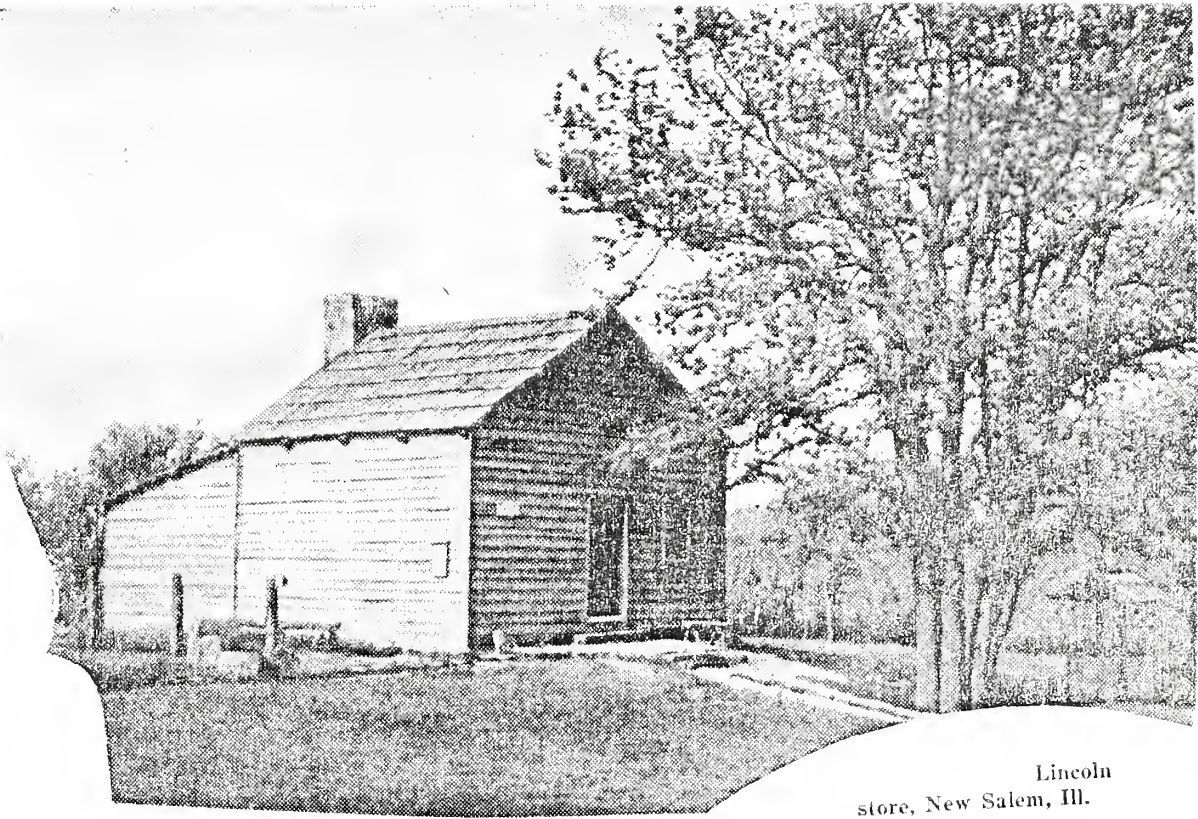
—State Journal Photos.

Before Lincoln came to Springfield to reside, he lived at New Salem, twenty miles northwest of Springfield, which today has been restored by the state to its original appearance. The top picture shows a view of the village looking along the only street it boasted, and below, is a closeup of one of the cabins.



New York Times

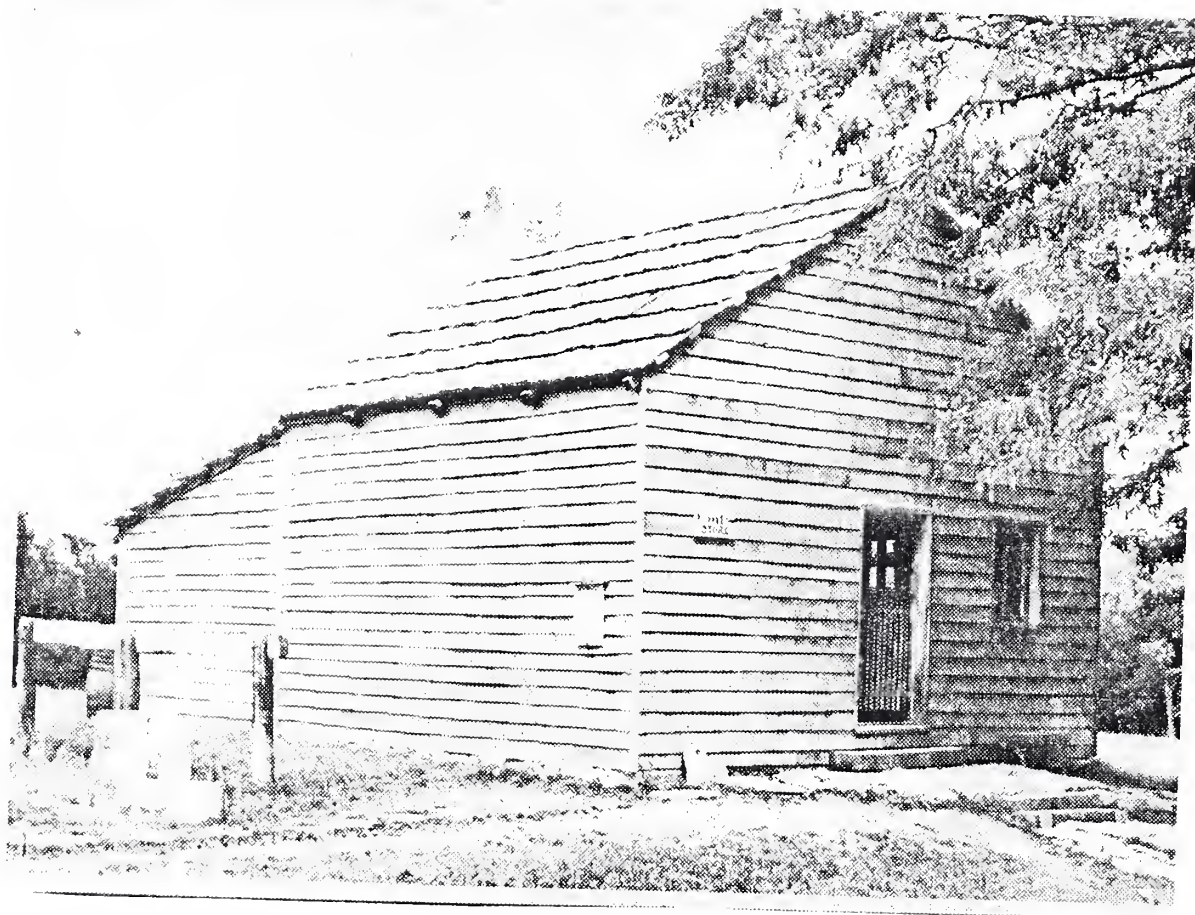
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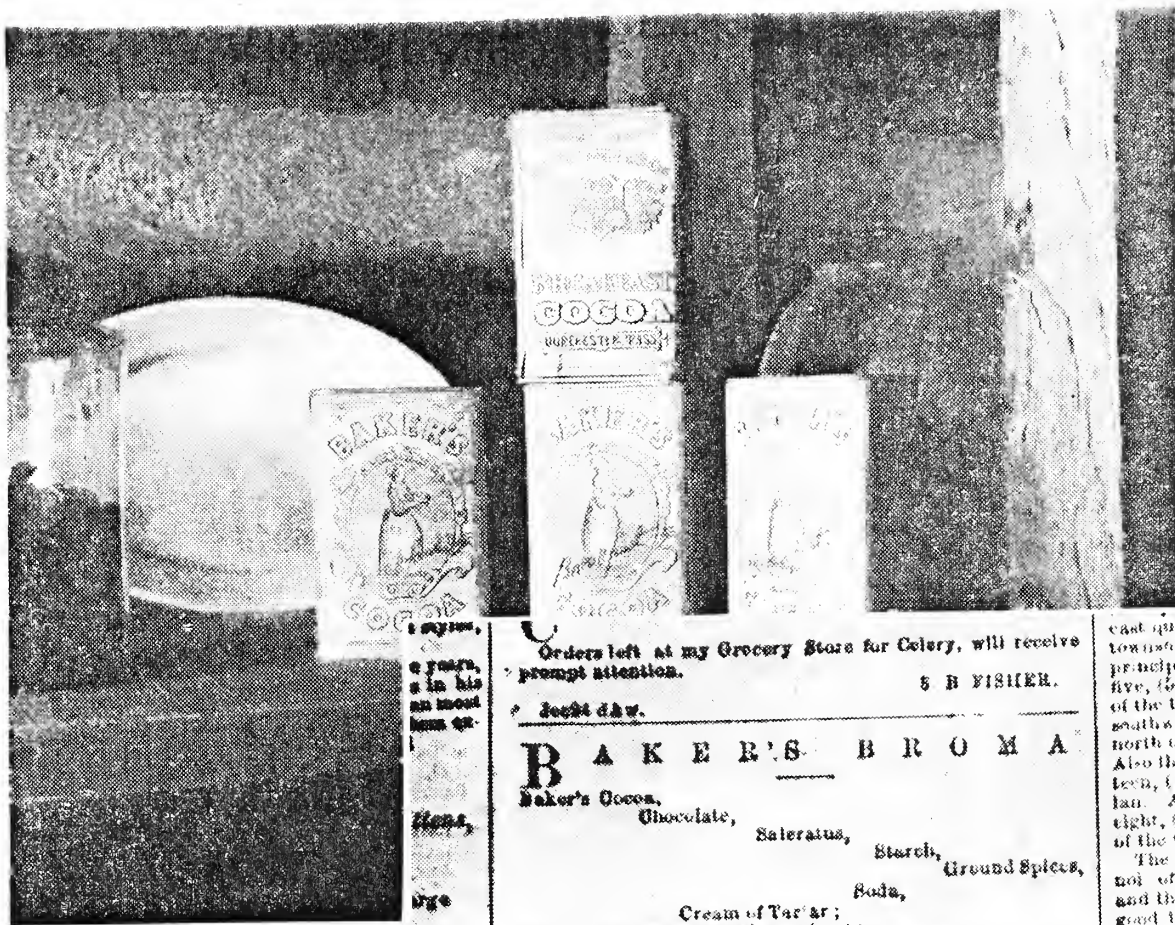
Lincoln  
store, New Salem, Ill.

1037

*Was Sold By Lincoln In 1837 And Still Sold Today*







The only nationally advertised product still being sold in stores today that was also on the shelves of the Lincoln-Berry store at New Salem 100 years ago is Baker's chocolate. The Baker firm was founded in 1780 and still is going strong. In the top picture is shown the recently restored store at New Salem where Lincoln clerked. Below is a closeup of one

Orders left at my Grocery Store for Celery, will receive prompt attention.

S B FISHER.

Just d.w.

## BAKER'S BROMA

Baker's Cocoa,

Chocolate,

Saleratus,

Starch,

Ground Spices,

Soda,

Cream of Tartar;

and a few other things, always kept by

DAY & McCULLOCH

MOLASSES—BY THE KEG, BBL., ETC.

for sale by

JOHN H. JESS,

Opposite Chenery House.

50 BOXES SUGAR RAISINS—40 HALF

do, 20 quarter do, at

MYERS.

of the shelves with the old type cans in which the product was sold in 1837. Inset is an advertisement

for Baker's chocolate taken from The State Journal of an 1862 issue.

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# ON LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY, NEW SALEM LOOKS LIKE IT DID WHEN HE LIVED THERE



Replica of the famous Lincoln-Berry grocery at New Salem, Ill., where Abraham Lincoln (inset) worked as a youth. The village, which is being restored as it was in Lincoln's time, was the mecca of Lincoln admirers yesterday.

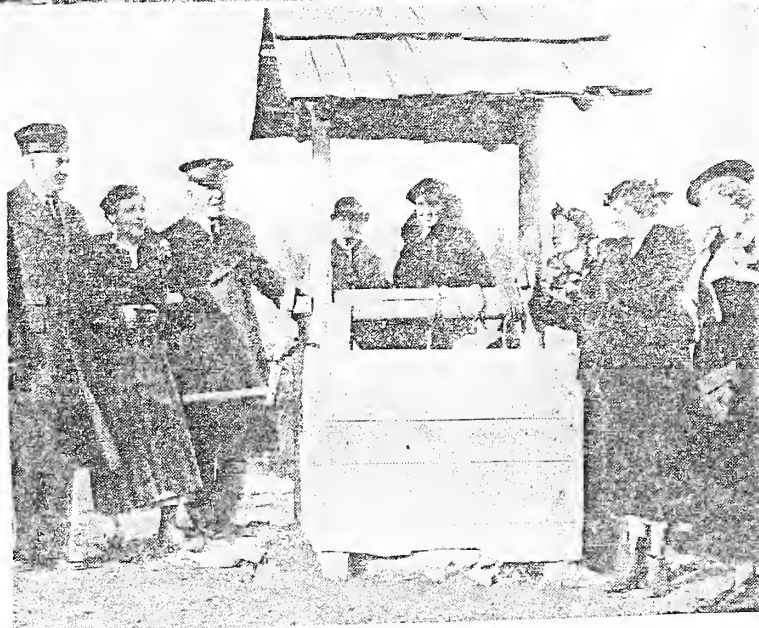




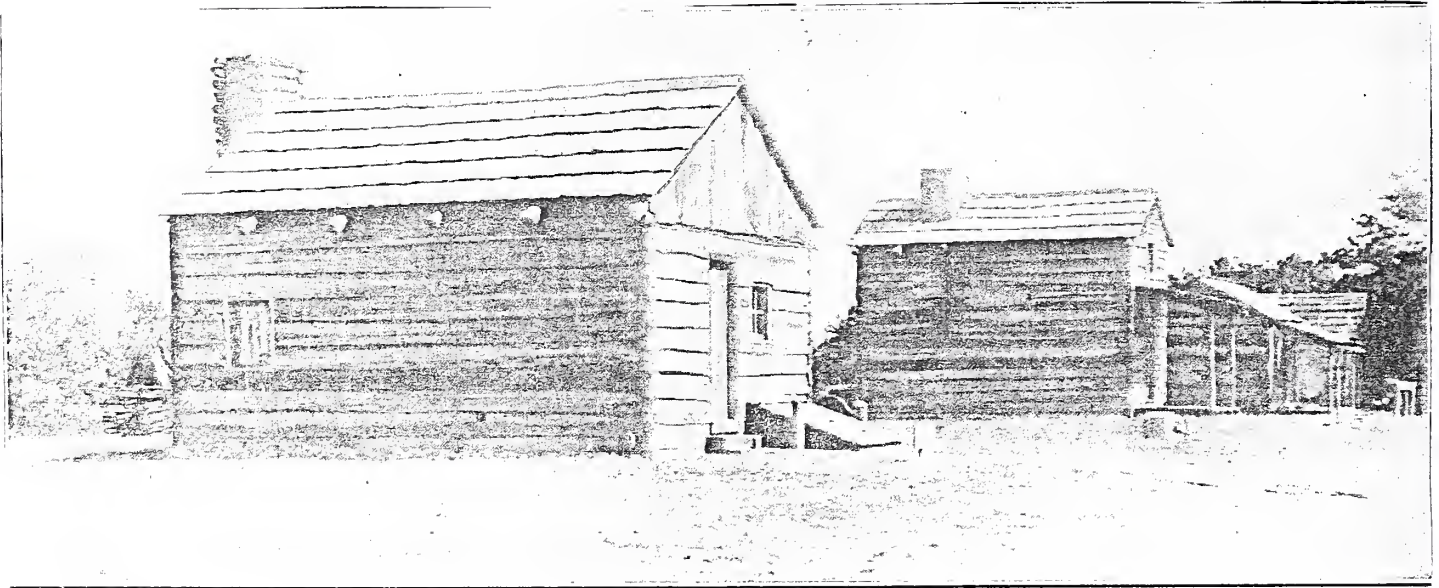


*Here is a typical New Salem street as it looked yesterday during the Lincoln Day celebration, with pilgrims conducting a tour of inspection.*

Copyright, 1937, by Chicago Herald and Examiner. All rights reserved.



*Some of New Salem's visitors inspecting the original well that stood in front of the Lincoln-Berry store. The work of restoration is being carried out through the munificence of William Rondolph Heorst and others.*



[TRIBUNE Photo.]

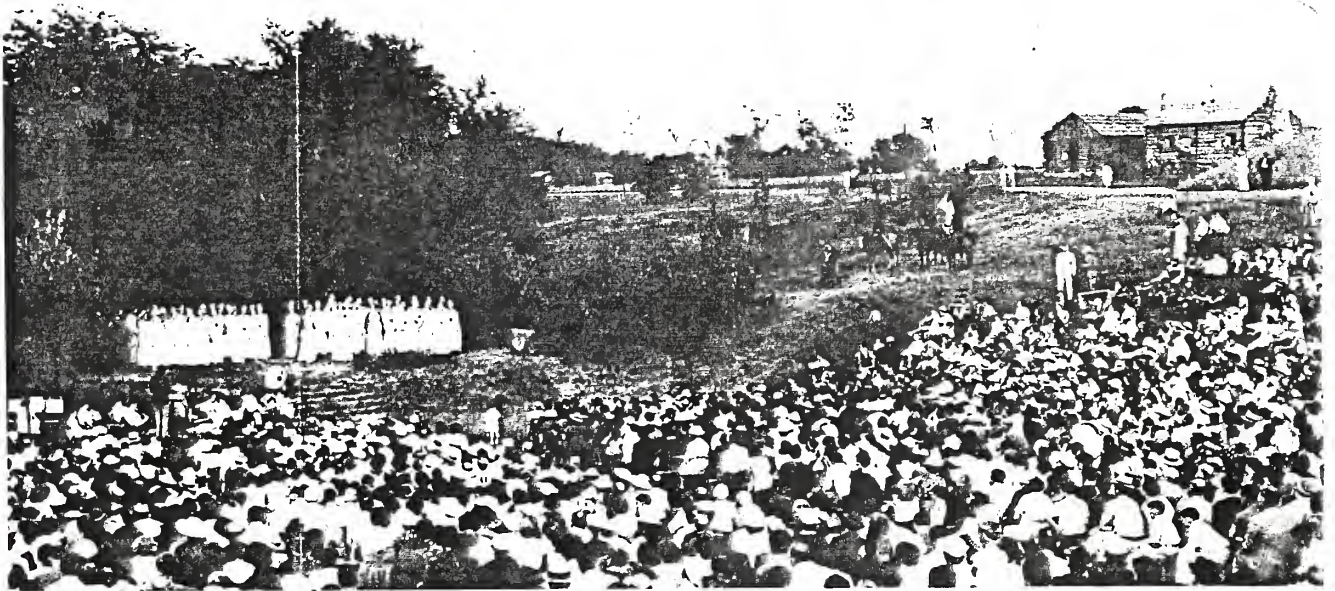
**RESTORED VILLAGE OF NEW SALEM WHERE LINCOLN SPLIT RAILS IS READY FOR DEDICATION BY GOV. HORNER THIS WEEK.**

Shown above is the partially restored village of New Salem, where Abraham Lincoln began his public career. The restored cabins, from left to right, are: The Lincoln family home and office, Samuel Hill residence, Hill-McNamar store, and the Berry-Lincoln store and tavern. The townsite, now a state park of about 500 acres, is to be dedicated this week.

(Story on page 13.)



## Early Home, Recalls the America of a Century Ago

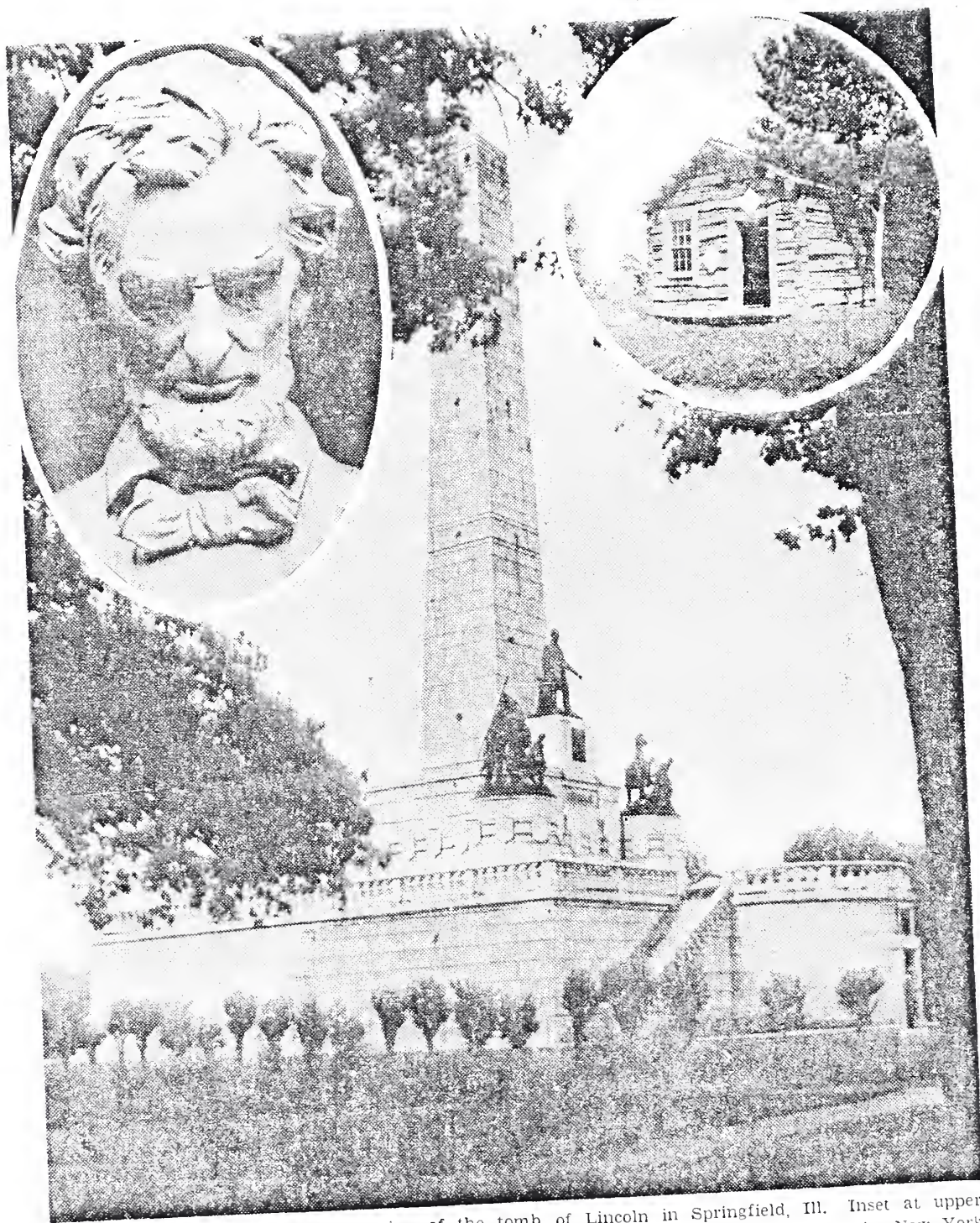


A general view of the dedicatory exercises at the Lincoln village, in which Governor Henry Horner of Illinois was the principal speaker.  
(Times Wide World Photos)



The three new buildings in the New Salem park are the Rutledge Tavern, where Lincoln met and courted Ann Rutledge, and the cabins of Isaac Galihier and the Trent brothers, merchants of Lincoln's time.  
(Times Wide World Photos)





LAST RESTING PLACE—A view of the tomb of Lincoln in Springfield, Ill. Inset at upper left a photograph of the head of the Lincoln figure by Saint Gaudens which is in the New York university hall of fame. Inset at upper right is the reconstructed log store building at New Salem, Ill., in which Lincoln worked as a clerk in 1831. He was working there when he short-changed a customer 6 cents and walked several miles to return the money.





The part of Ann Rutledge, youthful sweetheart of Abraham Lincoln, was played by an 18-year-old Iowa girl of the same name, a relative of the original Ann Rutledge, in a pageant depicting the "Salem years" of the Civil War President in connection with the dedication of three more buildings in the reproduction of the famous pioneer village at New Salem, Ill. In the photograph above the Ann Rutledge of 1937 is seen, seated on a fence of rails such as Lincoln might have split, with E. S. Mitchell of Petersburg, Ill., who represented the young Lincoln. Sixteen of the original twenty-five buildings of Lincoln's early home town now have been reconstructed and nearly \$450,000 has been expended on this memorial, which shows conditions of life on the American frontier of a century ago.

(Associated Press Photo.)

# Open House At CCC Camp

## New Salem Park Work Progresses

PETERSBURG, Ill. (Special)—Sunday, April 4 marks the fourth birthday of the Civilian Conservation Corps so it has been planned to celebrate that day in all CCC camps throughout the country.

Open house will be held at Camp New Salem for all those who are interested going through camp on April 4 or 5.

Callers at Camp New Salem are asked to call at the Army headquarters for information, as parties will be taken through by company officers who will explain and answer questions about the camp. From there you will be taken through the village of New Salem by experienced guides.

### Lincoln Shrine

The primary function of the Civilian Conservation Corps at Camp New Salem is the completion of the restoration of the entire Lincoln village which was started several years ago by the Old Salem Lincoln League and the Illinois department of public works and buildings in cooperation. The present work program in the park is being supervised by the United States department of interior, national park service, with the state department of public works and buildings cooperating and sponsoring the project.

Such historical structures as the original Lincoln-Berry store, the Rutledge-Cameron grist and saw mill, Onstott's cooper shop, Hills carding mill and many other buildings and features so closely related to Lincoln's life while at New Salem, are reconstructed in original form as near as possible.

### Antique Furnishings

Materials used in the restoration are exact duplicates of those found in the excavations made in the archeological research completed before the actual restoration is started. All log and lumber parts are chemically treated for preservation, brick are made by hand in wood moulds, similar to those used by the pioneer settlers, and the stone used in the foundations and fireplace is quarried from the same strata as that of the original buildings.

Upon completion of the buildings, period furnishings, a part of which are original New Salem articles, are used, giving the restoration a more complete setting.

### Radio Program

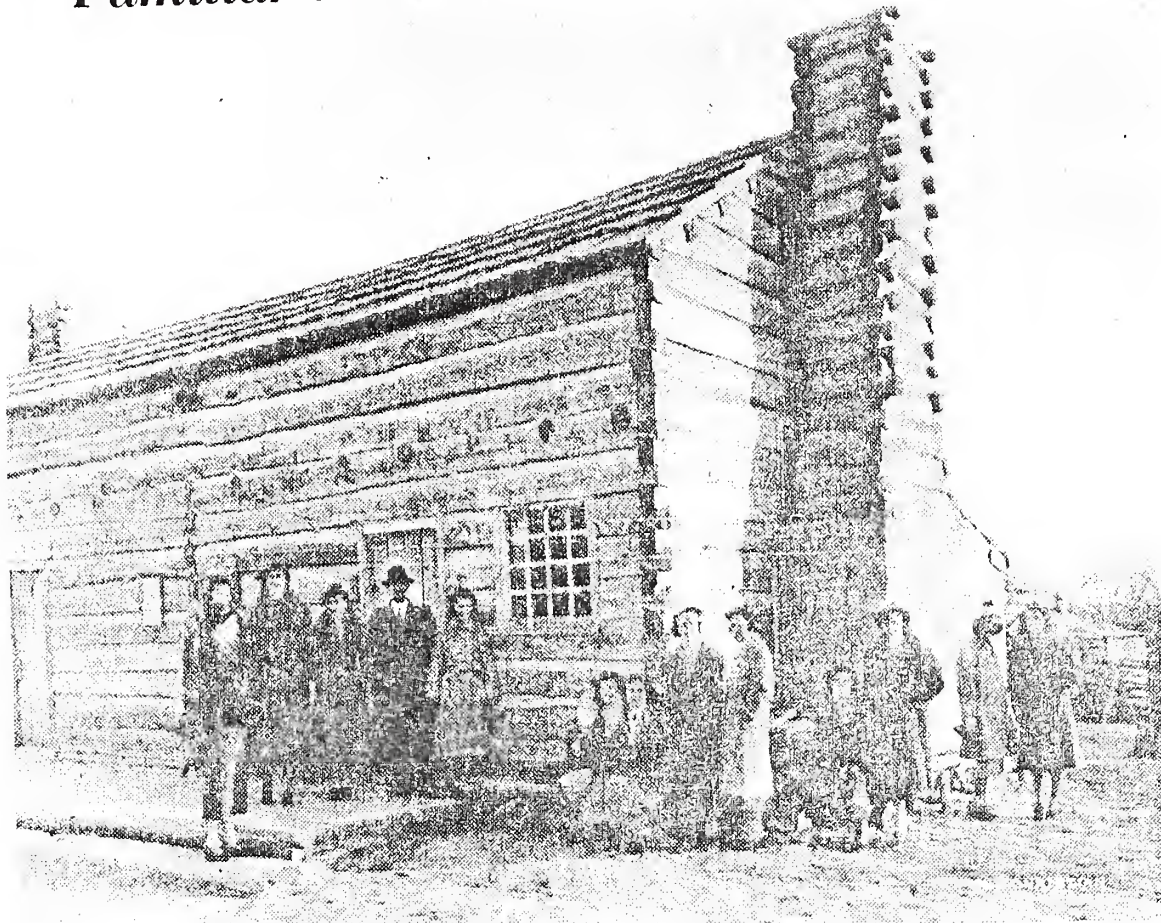
It is planned to have all mechanical parts in operation and to have oxen, chickens, geese, and other living creatures in the village to emphasize the restoration, and obliterate the memorial atmosphere of a mere group of log cabins with their fixed furnishings and surroundings.

Other work at the park involves the construction and erection of park facilities, accommodations, and permanent improvements, essential in accommodating park visitors.

Free guide service is available at all times to accompany visitors through the park, and all agencies involved in the work program welcome visitors at any time, and especially on this day which commemorates the start of the fifth year of the Emergency Conservation Work and the Civilian Conservation Corps. The boys from Camp New Salem will be heard over radio station WTAX Saturday, April 3 between 7 and 7:30 p. m.



# Familiar Landmark of Lincoln's Youth



Duplicate of Old Rutledge Tavern

Duplicate of the Rutledge Family Boarding House at New Salem, Ill., Where Abraham Lincoln Resided During His Stay in the Town and Where He Courted the Winsome Ann. A Group of Visitors to the Reconstruction Development Is Seen in the Fore-ground

## Illinois Town Being Rebuilt As a Memorial to Lincoln

2/12/38  
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

NEW SALEM, Ill., Feb. 12—Reconstruction of the cabin where Abraham Lincoln once studied by the flickering light from a fireplace is nearing completion in New Salem, near Petersburg, Ill. The entire town is being restored.

The building is the old Henry Onstot cooper shop, and the work is being done by Civilian Conservation Corps, under supervision of the National Park Service. Lincoln resided at New Salem for six years as a young man.

When New Salem began to decline before the middle of the last century, the Onstot shop was sold and moved to Petersburg, two miles away. It was used as a residence for years, and, in 1922, was bought by the Old Salem Lincoln League and moved back to its original site.

### Logs Being Replaced

The cabin is the only structure in the restored village in which any of the original material remains. Some of the logs are being replaced.

When restoration work in the town is completed, wheels will hum as they did a century ago,

making it easier for visitors of today to visualize the New Salem of yesterday. The town never had more than 100 citizens but one of them ran a grist and sawmill to grind grain for bread and saw logs for cabins, one ran a carding mill for carding wool, one was a blacksmith, and one was a cooper who made barrels and casks, important pioneer items. Settlers for miles around journeyed to this town on a bluff along the Sangamon River to purchase supplies.

But New Salem's existence ended a short time after Lincoln moved away in 1837, and the town's buildings were torn down and removed.

The work of restoring the village as a memorial to Lincoln and Illinois pioneers was begun some years ago by the State of Illinois. A number of cabins and the old Rutledge Tavern have been completed and dedicated.

### First Glimpse of Town

The most important project on the immediate program is the restoration of the old grist and sawmill on the site where Lincoln had his first glimpse of New Salem. Lincoln then 21, was riding into

town on a flat boat when it stuck on the mill dam.

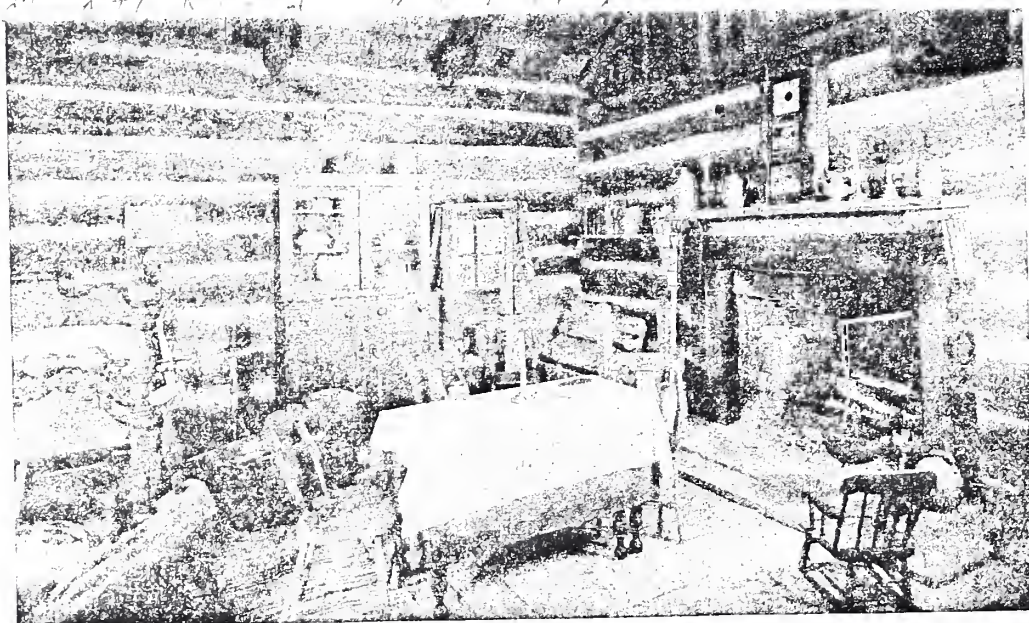
The carding mill was owned by Samuel E. Hill, proprietor of a general store. The mill was powered by oxen walking on a treadmill. The blacksmith shop, owned by Joshua Miller, was an important business center in the rural, isolated community.

According to plans of National Park Service technicians, which will be carried out by the CCC, vegetable and herb gardens will be planted near the restored cabins.

Many days were spent in research to determine what type of vegetables were raised by Lincoln's contemporaries. Yellowed files of newspapers and old letters were examined. Every effort is being made to make the appearance of New Salem as authentic as possible.

When all work is completed, New Salem will be much like the original village. The daily average of 1,500 visitors, from all parts of the nation, will see in this great memorial to Lincoln the environment that helped mold his character.





A typical New Salem interior: the home of Peter Lukins. This one room was used as living quarters, with a lean-to attached for the shoe-making shop

# New Salem

## A Lincoln Shrine

By M. ELIZABETH PERLEY

**I**MAGINE yourself set back to a time more than a hundred years ago, and living in a pioneer village of some twenty-five log cabins, several of them containing only one room. Such a village was New Salem, Ill., the home of Abraham Lincoln from 1831 to 1837. Formative years they were for the awkward, un-schooled youth known as "Abe," for after his work in the village store was over for the day came his great opportunity, when he studied with system and determination. The years in New Salem mark also the beginning of his political life, to which the village debating club gave perhaps the first impulse. He was indebted to New Salem, and New Salem was indebted to him.

The story of Abraham Lincoln's later career as a great executive and statesman is found in all American school histories. But he never lost the inspiration of those years spent in a pioneer village. When defeated in Illinois as a candidate for the United States Senate, he was eager to express his appreciation for the loyal support of his old home community, where he was best known and probably best loved.

Soon after Lincoln removed to the state capital, the decline of New Salem began. It was partially due to the realignment of counties. In 1840 only ten cabins remained in the village; five years later, only two. The families moved away, usually taking their houses with them—for the hewn logs, held together with clay, were easy to transport. Cellar holes were filled up. For some fifty years the land on which the village had stood was farmed as an open field.

In 1906 William Randolph Hearst bought the sixty acres for \$11,000 and encouraged the work of reconstruction. Twelve years later, he deeded the property to the state of Illinois, which in 1931 appropriated \$50,000 to complete the project of a Lincoln Memorial Park. Since that time rapid progress has been made. Sixteen cabins have been completely restored; others are in the process of being so treated.

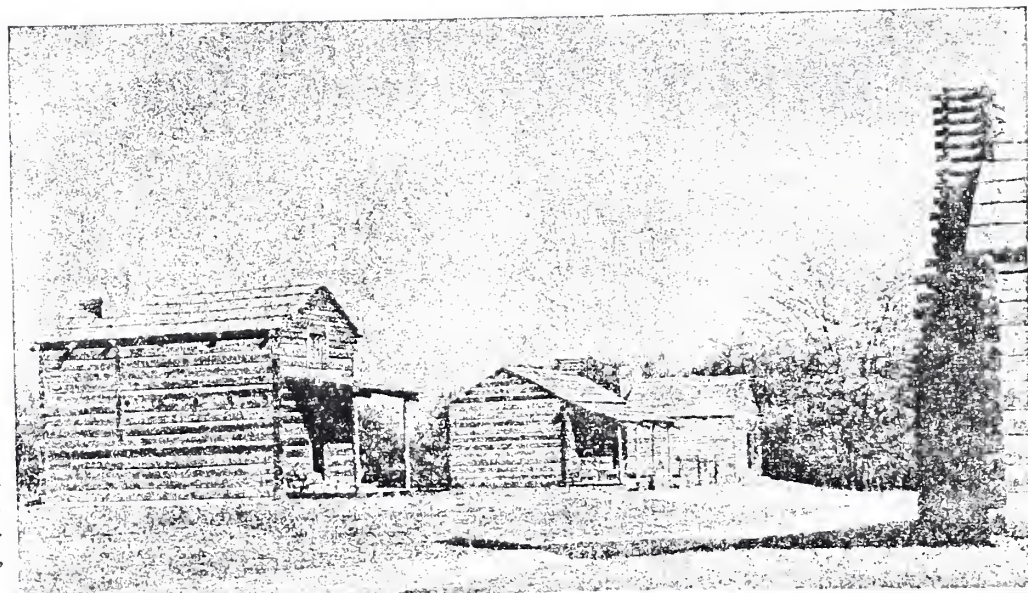
Much research was necessary to reproduce the different homes. The one remaining building, a cooper's shop, was the starting point for surveyors, and depressions in the land aided them in locating spots

where the cabins had stood. The records at Springfield and elsewhere were given careful study, old people were consulted, old letters and accounts reread. It is believed that the reproductions are now practically accurate.

The village is unique, with its "Main Street" about a mile long and its primitive homes on both sides, each bearing the name of the original owner. At every house door is a locked picket gate, for the Rutledge Tavern—the scene of Lincoln's early romance—is the only building visitors may enter. However, the open space above each closed gate gives ample opportunity for sightseeing crowds to view the interior. Bleak and bare exteriors there are, brightened occasionally by old-fashioned posey beds or a well sweep, but within there is an air of home-like comfort, attractive to lovers of the antique. This is in a large measure due to the efforts of the Old Salem Lincoln League and to the public spirited women who have given generously of their old-time household treasures, inherited or acquired, to furnish the restored cabins and public buildings.

OF ESPECIAL INTEREST to tourists is the Lincoln and Berry Store, with its stock of brush brooms, farm implements, rolls of calico, and glass jars of candy. Offutt's Store, where Lincoln was first employed, is perhaps equally significant, for its small back-room—the one in which "Abe" lay on the floor in the evenings and studied by the light of the open fire—may, in one sense, be regarded as his alma mater.

For Americans, New Salem has an unusual historic value, for it is unique in its association with our great national hero, Abraham Lincoln, who "now belongs to the ages."



A view toward the east in the restored village of New Salem. Left to right: Samuel Hill's residence, Hill-McNamar store, Berry-Lincoln store, and a portion of the Peter



## New Salem Lincoln Shrine Draws 250,000

More than a quarter million people from all parts of the world visited the reconstructed New Salem, Lincoln shrine, last year, according to Charles P. Casey, assistant state director of public works and buildings.

The memorial to the Great Emancipator was conceived in 1906, when William Randolph Hearst, lecturing at the Old Salem Chautauqua, bought the site and transferred it in trust to the chautauqua association. In 1918, with Hearst's consent, the land was transferred to the state of Illinois. 2/11/31

# New Salem Park Attracts Many

Report 231,042 Visitors  
In Year.

*See. for a full report 2/12/39*

Almost a quarter of a million visitors from all parts of the world last year visited the reconstructed pioneer village of New Salem, Charles P. Casey, assistant director of the department of public works and buildings, announced yesterday.

His report shows that 231,042 persons were registered during 1938, a gain of 12,500 over 1937, when 219,542 were counted for an all time high up to that time.

"The little community, now reconstructed as a state park, had a brief span of actual existence," Mr. Casey said. "Founded in 1828, it went into decline in 1839 and a few years later had fallen into decay and neglect.

"New Salem today, however, seems destined to stand. Hundreds of thousands of Americans come here every year to see the place where Abraham Lincoln clerked in a store, failed in business, served as a deputy postmaster, as surveyor and legislator, and courted Ann Rutledge. Thousands of world travelers visit this unique shrine."

Largest attendance during the year was recorded during August, when 43,714 visitors signed the register. July ranked second with 37,642 visitors and May third with 32,642.

Every state in the union was represented by park visitors during the year, as well as Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Alaska and the District of Columbia. Foreign countries represented included France,

Persia, Russia, Italy, Brazil, Mexico, Panama, Ireland, Argentina, England, Canada, China, Africa, India, Syria, Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Scotland, Sweden, Norway, Australia, Wales and Bermuda.



## New Salem as a Lincoln Shrine

New Salem, the pioneer village in Menard county which waxed and waned in less than two decades, only to be reborn nearly a century later, attracted almost a quarter of a million visitors from all parts of the world last year, Charles P. Casey, assistant director of the department of public works and buildings, revealed today.

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The summer holiday weekends brought the greatest daily attendance records. An all-time high was set during the Labor Day holiday when 7,542 visitors were counted. The July Fourth holiday attracted 6,938 visitors, and 7,149 were recorded during the Memorial Day holiday.

### Every State Represented

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Construction is going rapidly

ahead on several new projects at the park, according to Mr. Casey. The reconstructed Rutledge Lome and Miller blacksmith shop will be open in time for the 1939 season he stated, and work will start soon on reconstruction of the Camron-Rutledge grist mill on the Sangamon river. Plans are also being drawn for the Hill carding mill to be operated by ox power.

The first step in recreating the village came in 1906 when William Randolph Hearst, lecturing at the Old Salem Chautauqua, bought the site and transferred it in trust to the Chautauqua Association. In 1917, the Old Salem Lincoln league was formed in Petersburg to carry on research, and keep alive interest in New Salem. In 1918, with the consent of Mr. Hearst, the land was transferred to the State of Illinois.

During the years that followed, interest in the site grew steadily. In 1931, the General Assembly appropriated \$50,000 for permanent improvements to the Park and the restoration was started.

The only original building in the Park is the Onstot cooper shop. It was built in 1834, moved to Petersburg in 1840, and returned to New Salem in 1922 by the Old Salem Lincoln League. In this shop Lincoln studied Blackstone, Shakespeare and Burns by the flickering light of a wood fire.

## 231,042 PERSONS VISIT NEW SALEM

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—New Salem, the pioneer village which waxed and waned in less than two decades, only to be reborn nearly a century later, attracted almost a quarter of a million visitors from all parts of the world last year, Charles P. Casey, assistant director of the Department of Public Works and Buildings, announces.

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## **MILL RUN BY LINCOLN NOW TO BE RESTORED**

### **Illinois Park Officials Plan Work at New Salem, Where He Began Political Career**

NEW SALEM STATE PARK, Ill., Feb. 11 (AP).—The water-driven grist mill where Abraham Lincoln once worked and the dam which caused his first visit to the village of New Salem are to be restored to actual working conditions.

Reconstruction of the mill is to be started this year, State officials said today, as one of the final steps in the restoration of the vanished village of New Salem.

Historians say that in April, 1831, Lincoln, then 22, and three other men were guiding a flatboat loaded with salt pork, flour and corn meal down the Sangamon River en route to New Orleans.

The stream was at low stage and the boat became stuck on the dam here, one end tilting up in the air and the other shipping water. Under Lincoln's directions, the cargo was unloaded onto a ferry operating below the dam and the boat righted.

Going ashore, Lincoln borrowed an auger, with which he bored a hole in the bottom of the boat to let the water out. He plugged up the hole and with the aid of the others managed to float the boat over the dam. The craft was then reloaded and the journey resumed.

Denton Offutt, Lincoln's employer on the trip, was impressed with the location of the village and the opportunities he believed it afforded. A few months later he returned, established a grocery store and rented the mill, placing Lincoln in charge of the two enterprises.

Both the mill and the dam disappeared long ago and the village of New Salem, where Lincoln started his political career, was later abandoned and finally vanished.

## Old Lincoln Mill Rebuilt as in 1831

*Work Will Be Completed  
In June at New Salem, Ill.*

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. — Another step in the restoration of New Salem, the log cabin frontier town in which Abraham Lincoln spent his youth, will be completed in June with the opening of the Denton Offut mill at which Lincoln worked as a hand in 1831-32.

The original mill was built in 1828 by James Rutledge, father of Lincoln's sweetheart, Ann, and John Cameron, co-founders of the village of New Salem. Later it was sold to Denton Offut.

Reporting on progress of the restoration project, Charles Casey, director of the public works department, which is supervising the work, said, "The mill would be a Lincoln relic of great importance even had Lincoln never spent eight months operating it for Offut."

"Historians have pointed out that if Lincoln's flatboat had not stranded on the mill dam in 1830, he would have returned to the village the following year and today even the memory of New Salem would be lost," Casey said.

"The original mill built of logs had two wheels, one to grind corn and grain, the other to saw logs. The wheel for the sawmill rotated on a vertical shaft with the flow of water through an opening in the dam. The other was undershot and operated by a flow of water against its blades.

Casey said the restored mill is now more than 75 per cent completed, with the dam nearing its final stages.

After much study and discussion, he said, the dam and mill are being rebuilt on their original locations, despite difficulties resulting from topographical changes in the last 100 years since the village declined and was abandoned.

**Women in Great Britain**



# Postoffice, Century Shut, To Open for Lincoln Fete

Springfield (AP)

Historic New Salem, where Abraham Lincoln grew from a \$10 a month flatboat hand to a gangling country lawyer and legislator, will be the center of the nation's observance of the Civil war President's 131st birthday anniversary Monday.

Another step in the reconstruction of the log cabin village huddled on a bluff overlooking the Sangamon river will be taken when the postoffice is reopened for the first time since Postmaster Lincoln closed his books on May 30, 1836.

## 15 Cabins Rebuilt

Fifteen cabins have been rebuilt on the site of the village, which fell into decay not long after Lincoln left to practice law in Springfield, 25 miles away. The postoffice will again be operated in the log Hill-McNamar store where Lincoln sorted mail at a little wooden desk.

Mail in the 1830's reached New Salem by way of stagecoach and saddlebags but Monday, when Postmaster General James A. Farley dedicates the new postoffice, an airliner will circle over the hamlet and drop a mail bag. By way of contrast other mail will be carried from Springfield in an old stagecoach, taking eight hours for the trip accomplished by the plane in 10 or 15 minutes.

## Cooper's Shop Standing

Designed as a Lincoln memorial, New Salem is being rebuilt around the only original cabin remaining from the once prosperous village. The lone cabin standing when work started in 1932 was Henry Onstot's cooper shop where Lincoln studied nights by the light of flames from the cooper's shavings in the fireplace.

Working from descriptions provided by relatives, the state parks division in cooperation with Lincoln societies has rebuilt 15 cabins and more are planned soon. Attics in old houses of this "Lin-

coln country" have been searched for furniture and other property of Lincoln's day to lend an authentic air to the reconstructed village.

Geese and chickens occupy pens, gardens are planted and haystacks stand near the barns.

## Plan School Restoration

Among the buildings restored are the Hill-McNamar store where Lincoln served as postmaster and clerk, the Lincoln-Berry store, a venture in which Lincoln was a business failure, the Rutledge tavern and other houses.

Plans are now complete for restoration of the Mentor Graham school where Lincoln as a youth studied mathematics, history and grammar. Work is progressing on re-creation of the Rutledge-Cameron saw mill and grist mill on the Sangamon river at the foot of the bluff.

## Preservation Started by Hearst

Last year more than 270,000 visitors from every state in the United States and from 29 foreign countries were registered.

The first step in preserving the old village was made in 1906 when William Randolph Hearst bought the land on which the village stood and transferred it in trust to the Old Salem Chautauqua association. The land was transferred to the state of Illinois in 1918.

Not until 1932 was actual res-

toration begun when the state Legislature appropriated \$50,000 for the work.

# NEW SALEM VILLAGE VISITED BY 270,000 VISITORS IN '39

New Salem, the recreated village which will be the scene Monday of dedicatory rites for a new United States post office, attracted more than 270,000 visitors last year.

A checkup of New Salem visitors during 1939 shows that 276,069 persons were registered, representing a gain of 44,000 over 1938 when 231,042 were counted for an all-time high for that period.

Largest attendance was recorded at New Salem during August when 49,366 visitors passed through the main entrance. July ranked second with 47,593, and October was third with 44,584.

Summer holiday periods brought the greatest daily attendances. An all-time high was set over the Labor day holiday when 10,642 persons were in the park. The July Fourth holiday attracted 8,932 visitors and 8,148 were recorded during the Memorial day holiday.

Every state in the union was represented by park visitors during 1939, as well as Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Alaska and the District of Columbia.

Foreign lands represented include France, Persia, Russia, Italy, Brazil, Mexico, Panama, Ireland, Argentina, Australia, England, Canada, China, Japan, Africa, India, Syria, Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Scotland, Sweden, Wales, Norway and Bermuda.

## Complete Plans

Plans are now complete for restoration on its original site of the Mentor Graham school house where Lincoln as a youth studied mathematics, history and grammar. Work is progressing on the recreation of the Rutledge-Camron combination saw mill and grist mill on the Sangamon. The mill will operate exactly as did the original and will be completed during the 1940 season.

Plans are now 90 percent complete for reconstructing the Hill carding mill between Martin Waddell's residence and Dr. Francis Regnier's office on the north side of the village's main street. The carding mill which operated between 1835 and 1839 when it was moved to Petersburg, will be powered by oxen, and will prepare raw wool for curling and spinning.

The state also has plans at present to reconstruct the original Lincoln-Berry store in which Lincoln and William Berry started in business in the fall of 1832. The store building will be located opposite an

three doors west from the present Lincoln-Berry store restoration where the partners moved early in 1833. The second store was not successful, and Lincoln sold his interest to Berry in the summer of the same year. Lincoln later assumed all the indebtedness resulting from the store's failure. It was not until 1847 when he was elected to Congress that the debt was finally retired.

The post office is in the Hill-McNamar store where Lincoln served as a clerk and as postmaster after selling out to Berry.

The first step in preserving the site came in 1906 when William Randolph Hearst, lecturing at the Old Salem Chataqua, bought the land on which the village stood and

transferred it in trust to the Chataqua association. In 1917, the Old Salem Lincoln League was formed in Petersburg to carry on research and keep alive interest in New Salem. The land, with the consent of Mr. Hearst, was transferred to the State of Illinois in 1918.

Actual restoration planning was begun in 1931, after \$50,000 had been appropriated by the Illinois General Assembly. The cornerstone for the first reconstructed buildings, the second Lincoln-Berry store, was laid November 17, 1932.

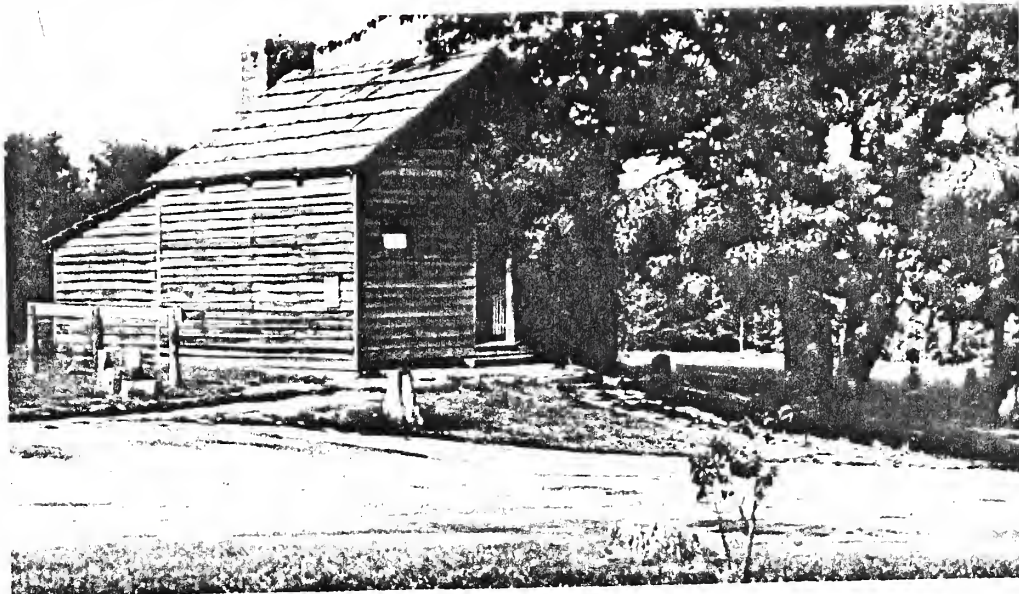
The only original building in the Park is the Onstot cooper shop. It was built in 1834, moved to Petersburg in 1840 and returned to New Salem in 1933 by the Old Salem Lincoln League. In this shop Lincoln studied Blackstone, Shakespeare and Burns by the flickering light of a wood fire.

Chess really is a game of war one player pitting his military tactics against those of his opponent.



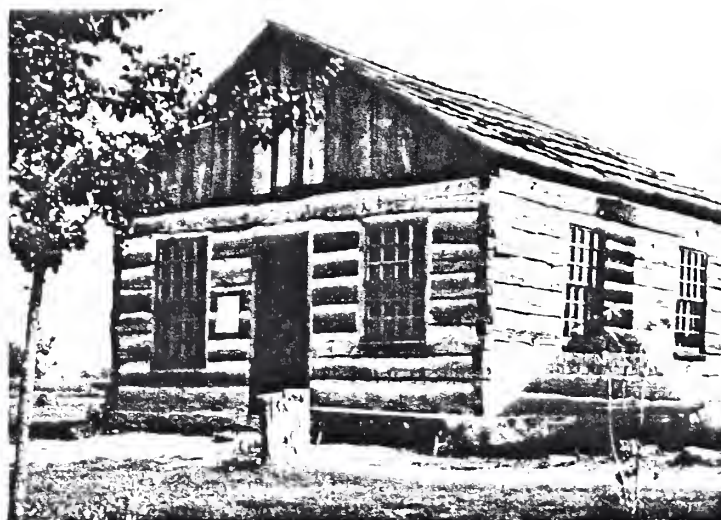
## NG PEOPLE

Number 6. February 11, 1940



1. In this cooper shop, the only original building standing in New Salem today, Lincoln and Isaac Onstot studied together by the light of the cooper's shavings

2. This building in New Salem, Ill., is a faithful copy of the original Lincoln-Berry Store, of which Lincoln was part owner. The village, abandoned in 1839, is now being rebuilt





# Plan New Work At New Salem Park

## Mentor Graham School To Be Restored.

Plans are now complete for restoration on its original site of the Mentor Graham school at New Salem state park where Abraham Lincoln as a young man studied mathematics, history and grammar, Charles P. Casey, assistant director of the state department of public works and buildings, said yesterday.

Casey said the recreated village which will be the scene of dedicatory rites for a new U. S. postoffice tomorrow, attracted more than 270,000 visitors last year. The postoffice is in the Hill-McNamar store where Lincoln served as a clerk and as postmaster after selling out to William F. Berry.

Work is progressing on the recreation of the Rutledge-Camron combination saw and grist mill on the Sangamon river. The mill will operate exactly as did the original and will be completed during the 1940 season. It was on the dam by the mill late in April, 1831, that a flatboat with Lincoln and three others on board became stuck. That was Lincoln's first sight of the village.

Plans are 90 per cent complete, Casey said, for reconstructing the Hill carding mill between Martin Waddell's residence and Dr. Francis Regnier's office on the north side of the village's main street. The carding mill which operated between 1835 and 1839 when it was moved to Petersburg, will be powered by oxen and will prepare raw wool for curling and spinning.

The state also has plans to reconstruct the original Lincoln-Berry store in which the two men started business in the fall of 1832. The store building will be located opposite and three doors west from the present Lincoln-Berry store restoration to which the partners moved early in 1833. The second store was unsuccessful and Lincoln sold his interest to Berry in the summer of the same year.

Attendance figures for 1939 showed 276,069 persons were registered, a gain of 44,000 over 1938. Largest attendance was in July with 49,366 visitors. July was second and October third.

Summer holiday periods brought the greatest daily attendance. An all-time high was set over the Labor day holiday when 10,642 persons were in the park. The July 4 holiday drew a crowd of 8,932, and 8,148 were recorded during the Memorial day holiday.

Every state in the Union was represented in 1939 as well as Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Alaska and the District of Columbia. Foreign lands included France, Persia, Russia, Italy, Brazil, Mexico, Panama, Ireland, Argentina, Australia, England, Canada, China, Japan, Africa, India, Syria, Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Scotland, Sweden, Wales, Norway and Bermuda.



The reconstructed Lincoln-Berry store. Lean-to at rear sometimes served as Lincoln's sleeping quarters.

The cooper shop is the only original building standing in New Salem today. It was here that Lincoln and Isaac Onstot, son of the cooper, studied together by the light of the cooper's shavings.



This portrait of Lincoln was used as a campaign photograph during the presidential campaign of 1860.

Street scene in rebuilt New Salem, Ill., as it was 100 years ago.

Rutledge tavern where Abraham Lincoln met his first love, Ann Rutledge.

BY MARTHA E. BONHAM

Central Press Correspondent

**N**EW SALEM, ILL. — In both the popular stage play of Abe Lincoln in Illinois and in the movie, The Young Mr. Lincoln, the early scenes are laid in New Salem, where Lincoln spent six of the most formative years of his life. Now the village that knew Lincoln so well is making a definite claim to everlasting fame.

Eventful were those six years from 1831 when a tall, awkward youth arrived in New Salem to take a job in the country store, until 1837 when a rather solemn appearing man said goodbye to his village friends, and, on a borrowed horse, set out for Springfield to begin his career as a lawyer.

It was in New Salem that Lincoln made great strides in his quest for knowledge. Here it was that he had his first experience of being in business for himself. It was while he was a storekeeper in this village that he acquired Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England and decided to become a lawyer.

The store did not prove to be successful. After two years, Lincoln disposed of his share and was left greatly in debt.

The cooper shop is the only original building in the group. It was moved to Petersburg in 1840 and returned to New Salem when the restoration began. Lincoln was a close friend of the cooper's son, and they often read Shakespeare and Burns by the light of the fire kindled by the cooper's shavings.

The Rutledge tavern, originally built by James Rutledge, the father of Ann, is the largest building in the village. When Lincoln boarded at the tavern, he slept in the loft.

#### Goes to Legislature

In 1834 Lincoln was elected to the Illinois assembly and it became necessary for him to spend part of his time in Vandalia, the capital of the state at that time. He was always happy to return to his friends in New Salem when his legislative duties were over.

The tragic story of Lincoln and Ann Rutledge is well known. It is believed that they planned to marry after Ann had attended Illinois college at Jacksonville for

a year and when Lincoln would be making enough to support a family. During the summer of 1835 the Rutledge family moved to a farm near Sand Ridge, and Lincoln made regular trips to the Rutledge home. The August of that year was very dry, and many of the settlers suffered from malaria. Among the victims of the fever was Ann Rutledge. Her death affected him for many months afterward.

The state of Illinois is continuing the reconstruction of New Salem. Much research is necessary. Every effort has been made to plant trees, flowers and vegetables that grew in the early village.

At various times additional land purchases have been made by the state. The village is now a part of a park of about 225 acres, known as the New Salem state park.

Two projects are under construction at present, the Hill carding mill and the dam and grist mill on the Sangamon river. The reconstruction of the Cameron mill dam is one of the most important of the undertakings, for if it had not been for this dam, Lin-

coln would never have known New Salem.

#### The Boat Incident

In April, 1831, a flatboat bound for New Orleans became stranded on the mill dam on the Sangamon river near New Salem. The boat stuck there for 24 hours. The whole village turned out to shout directions and watch the four men endeavor to free their boat. One of the men, a young fellow dressed in blue homespun jeans, seemed to have a plan of his own which finally proved successful.

The ingenuity which the young man had shown made a great impression upon the crowd on the bank. As a result of this incident, Mr. Offut, the owner of the boat, became acquainted with the people of New Salem and decided that the friendly village would be a good place to open a general store. He asked his skillful assistant on the boat to return as a clerk in the store.

Thus it came about that in the following July, Abraham Lincoln became a citizen of the village where he met situations and made decisions that had a permanent influence not only upon his life, but also on that of a nation.



# Postoffice Where Civil War President Held Job Reopened

Emancipator's First Government Employment  
in Role of \$25-a-Year Man in Illinois Hamlet

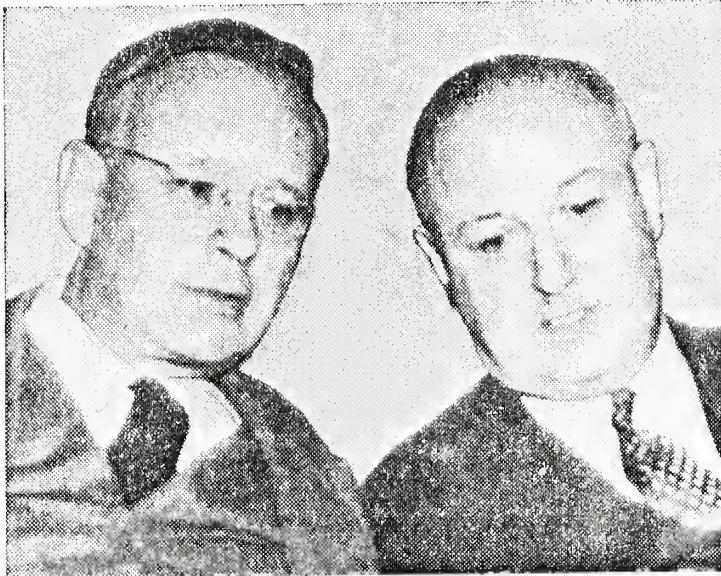
NEW SALEM (Ill.) Feb. 12. (P)—The county postoffice where Abraham Lincoln held his first government job was reopened today with elaborate ceremony as a new memorial to the Civil War President.

The little known story of Lincoln's humble role as a \$25-a-year rural postmaster was retold to

how to direct the activities of other men."

## POSTOFFICE MOVED

In the log structure counterpart of the original Hill-McNamar store where Lincoln clerked when not sorting the mail, the first letter to leave New Salem since 1836 when Postmaster Lin-



**PRAISE LINCOLN**—Alf M. Landon, left, and James A. Farley at reopening of postoffice where Lincoln worked.

(P) Wirephoto

hundreds gathered in this little log cabin hamlet where the Emancipator got his start as a politician and statesman.

## FARLEY OFFICIATES

Thousands of letters, most of them for collectors seeking the "Lincoln's New Salem" cachet, were sent to the office for the formal dedication of the log postoffice by Postmaster General James A. Farley.

"In this age of dictatorship and government by cruel violence, it is heartening to recall that Abraham Lincoln was a product of democratic government," Farley declared in an address. "His rise to eminence and immortality in the annals of statecraft would have been impossible under any other system."

Reviewing Lincoln's development into a country lawyer and legislator in this prairie village, Farley said "it was here that he learned the essential lessons of

coln lost his job, was postmarked. The postoffice at that time was moved to near-by Petersburg and Lincoln left a year later for Springfield to practice law.

The postoffice was opened with more ceremony than this village ever saw in Lincoln's day. An old-fashioned stagecoach carried one batch of mail to the prairie town before the dedication, which was climaxed with the delivery of other mailbags dropped from a modern airliner circling over the village.

## OTHER ODD JOBS

Lincoln was postmaster of New Salem for three years—from 1833 to 1836. He augmented his postal earnings of \$25 to \$30 a year by clerking, harvesting, surveying and other odd jobs.

Here he studied law from borrowed books and campaigned for election to the State Legislature. His postal receipts he kept in an old blue sock tucked away under his hardwood desk.



# Log Cabin Dedicated As Lincoln Memorial

## Farley reopens Illinois postoffice where President served in early years

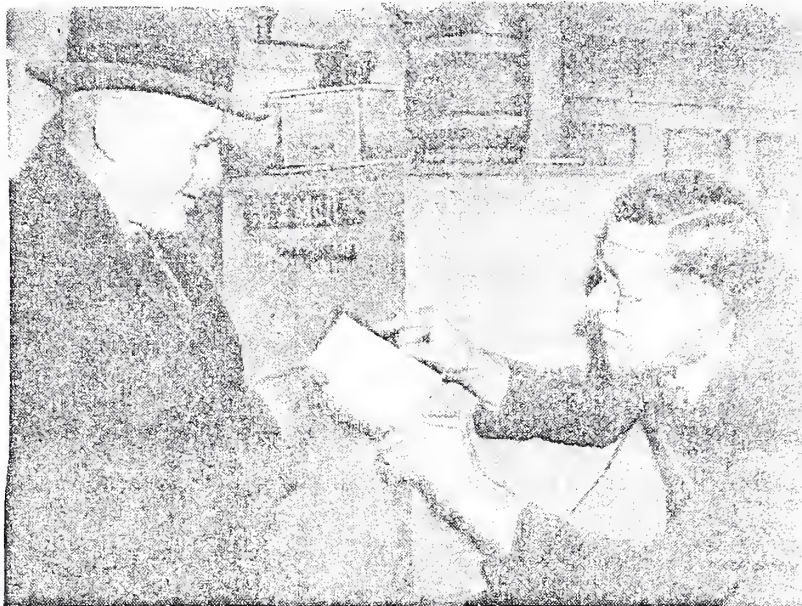
Lincoln's New Salem, Ill., Feb. 12 (AP)—A little log cabin in the village where Abraham Lincoln once served as a country postmaster was dedicated as a memorial to the Civil War President today in the presence of 8,000 spectators.

Postmaster General James A. Farley, reopening the postoffice for the first time since Lincoln lost his job as postmaster more than a century ago, said the experience as postmaster and small-town politician provided "the groundwork of his long and useful public career."

Lincoln's successor as postmaster, young John W. Gellerman, took his oath of office from Farley and began sorting thousands of letters, most of them sent by collectors seeking the "Lincoln's New Salem" cachet.

As Farley finished speaking and sat down, a voice from the audience cried, "The Democratic nominee for the Presidency of the United States has just spoken." Farley gave no indication that he heard the remark.

The ceremonies opened with delivery of mail to the log replica of the old Hill-McNamar store where Lincoln sorted the mail at a little hardwood desk and were climaxed by something the great emancipator never saw—a mail plane circling



**Landon Visits Lincoln Postoffice.** — Postmaster John W. Gellerman, right, shows Alf M. Landon, former governor of Kansas and 1936 Republican presidential nominee, a letter prepared for mailing today in the rebuilt log postoffice at Lincoln's New Salem, officially opened today. (Described in Saturday's Magazine Section.)

### Landon and Farley Laud Lincoln



Alf M. Landon, left, 1936 Republican Presidential candidate, and James A. Farley, Democratic national chairman, converse earnestly on platform at Springfield, Ill., from which both spoke on eve of Abraham Lincoln's birthday anniversary. Both praised the Civil War President as a first-rate political leader.

Associated Press Wirephoto

## After 110 Years

SERVICE will be resumed at a postoffice which was established more than 110 years ago when on Monday Postmaster James A. Farley dedicates the restored building which once housed the general store in which Abraham Lincoln was a clerk in New Salem, Ill. The official designation will become Lincoln's New Salem. Introducing Mr. Farley will be Logan Hay, Springfield attorney and descendant of John Hay, who is president of the Abraham Lincoln Association of Springfield. Other speakers will be U. S. Senators James M. Slattery and Scott Lucas of Illinois, Raymond J. Kelley, National Commander of the American Legion and Gov. Henry Horner. The celebration will be heard over WEBR and the Blue Network of the National Broadcasting Company at 2:30 P. M.

1940

### Farley Reopens Postoffice Where Abe Lincoln Worked

NEW SALEM, Ill., Feb. 12 (AP).—The County Postoffice where Abraham Lincoln held his first government job was reopened today with elaborate ceremony as a new memorial to the Civil War president. The little-known story of Lincoln's humble role as a \$25-a-year rural postmaster was retold to hundreds gathered in this little log cabin hamlet where the emancipator got his start as a politician and statesman.

Thousands of letters, most of them for collectors seeking the "Lincoln's New Salem" cachet, were sent to the office for the formal dedication of the log postoffice by Postmaster General James A. Farley.

"In this age of dictatorship and government by cruel violence it is heartening to recall that Abraham Lincoln was a product of democratic government," Mr. Farley declared.



# MEMORIAL LOCATED WHERE LINCOLN SORTED MAIL



**REBUILT**—The rebuilt log postoffice at New Salem, Ill., where Abraham Lincoln held his first government job,

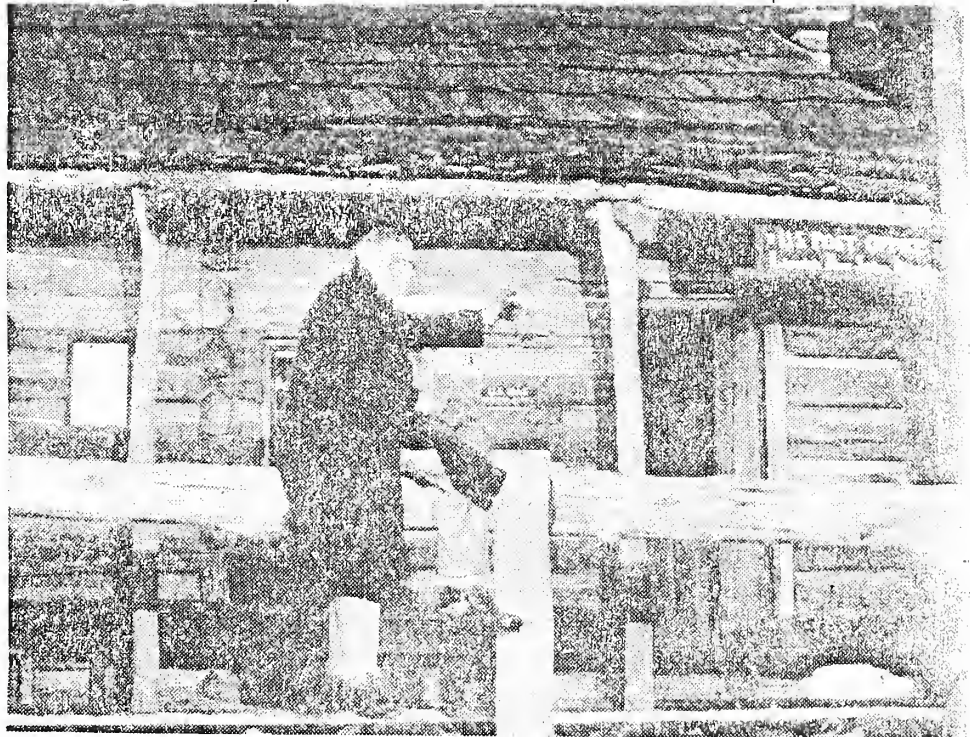
was reopened yesterday as memorial to the Civil War President. Alf M. Landon is shown at postoffice.

But as one hears Gene Boeker, a young guide steeped in Lincoln lore, enthusiastically tell about the plans for the future, one wonders if the task of restoring New Salem can ever be called complete by its promoters.

Ultimately each shop will be worked, just as it was in the early days.

There is even talk of letting cows, geese, ducks, pigs, and horses roam at will just as they did over a century ago.

In short, to leave the Lincoln National Memorial Highway at a point 20 miles northwest of Springfield and enter New Salem State Park is like returning to the nearly part of the last century. From a log structure a guide steps forth, and the story of New Salem and its settlers slowly unravels as we stroll over the ground so familiar to Abraham Lincoln many years ago. A soft carpet of snow, a clear sky, a light breeze bearing fresh odors of the countryside, chirping sparrows flitting between trees—such is the setting. From a tall wooden flagpole softly floats a flag with 24 stars. And over all is a peaceful quiet—as if the inhabitants of the log cabins were sleeping late in the morning.

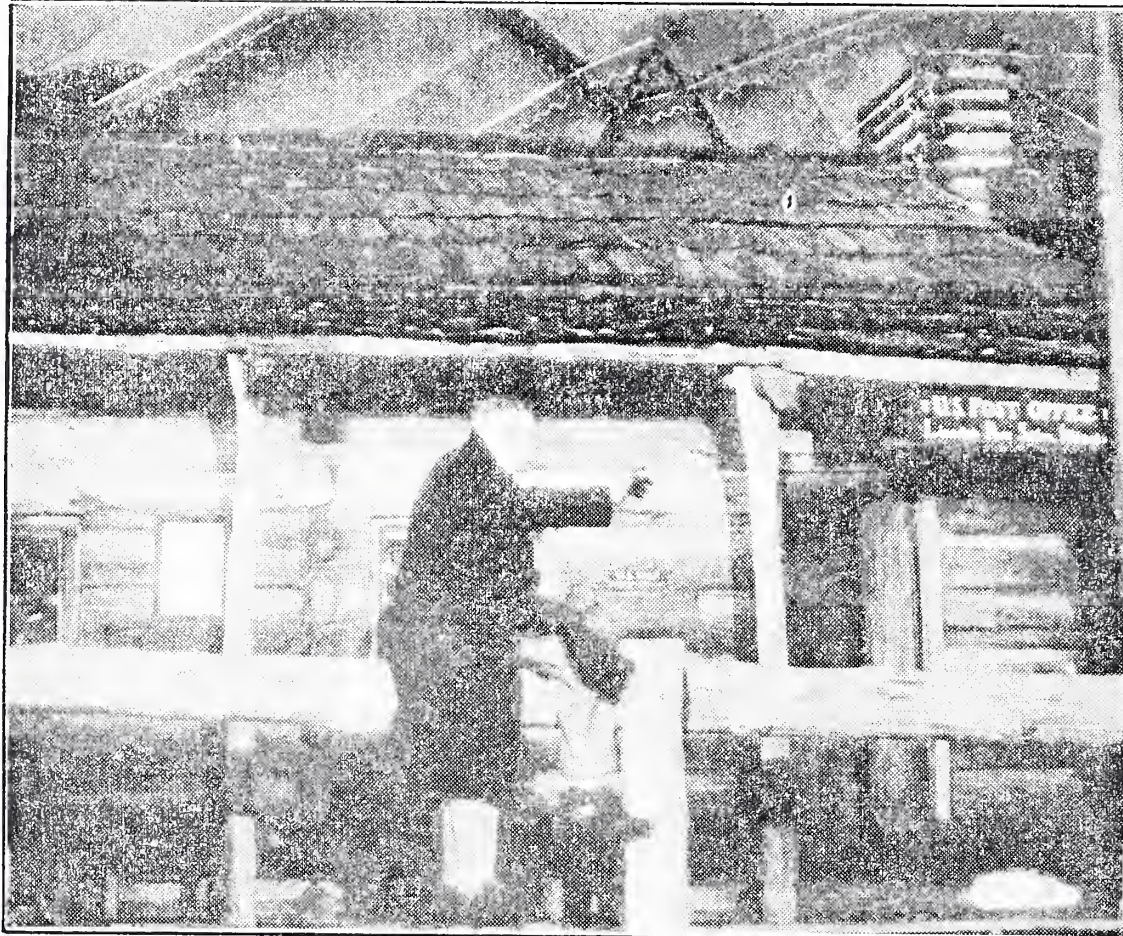


**LANDON SURVEYS REBUILT POSTOFFICE**—Alf M. Landon, 1936 Republican Presidential nominee, is shown as he surveyed the rebuilt log postoffice at New Salem, Ill. The office was reopened yesterday for the first time since Abraham Lincoln lost his job as postmaster a century ago.

(A) Wirephoto



# Lincoln Postoffice Dedicated



**MEMORIAL** Alf M. Landon, 1936 Republican Presidential nominee, in front of the rebuilt log cabin postoffice at Lincoln's New Salem, Ill. Landon and Postmaster-General Farley took part in ceremonies reopening the rural postoffice where Abraham Lincoln was postmaster more than a century ago.

—Associated Press Wirephoto.



## AT LINCOLN CEREMONY

Alf M. Landon (left), 1936 Republican Presidential candidate, and James A. Farley, Democratic national chairman, conversing earnestly on the platform from which both spoke in connection with the Lincoln's birthday ceremonies at Springfield, Ill., last night.

—Associated Press Wirephoto.



## **Estimated 15,000 Persons Saw Three-Day New Salem Festival**

Lincoln's New Salem (AP) New Salem's festive meditation of old times was concluded last night before the largest crowd to witness any performance of the Lincoln pageant, presented in the bowl known to readers of history as "Kelso Holler."

Flawless Indian summer weather and visiting groups from various parts of the state brought out thousands to see the weekend ceremonies in the Lincoln country.

The total attendance for the three-day celebration was estimated by Henry E. Pond of Petersburg, president of the Old Salem Lincoln league, at 15,000. Cold weather curtailed the turnout earlier in the week.

### **Success Despite Rush**

"The success of the undertaking this year, despite the rush necessary to be prepared and the disagreeable weather conditions most of the time, hardly can be questioned," Pond said.

"Difficulties almost always attend the establishment of a precedent. But, now that the first obstacles have been cleared, we are in a position henceforth to leave little to chance. Not having to start virtually from scratch, we shall be

able to hold the 1941 festival earlier in the season, probably in August.

"Many flattering things have been said about our efforts. That pleases us, of course. Unsolicited comments of that kind indicate that we were not too ambitious in hoping that the Lincoln festival would become in time a sort of American Oberammergau, an artistic and patriotic national ceremony."

### **Amateurs Show Competence**

It is significant that, notwithstanding certain weaknesses in the script, direction, and acting, the Lincoln play does wear well. A second or third view of it does not lessen one's admiration for the amateur competence of the cast and for the sponsors' courage in tackling a job so formidable.

This is the shrine of a people still audacious and not worn out, a place covering 400 acres with log cabins and frontier stores, tavern, and post-office. The restoration has cost the state approximately \$1,200,000 so far, but the value of New Salem to Illinois and to the nation is agreed to be such that practically a million and a quarter dollars is mere chicken feed, relatively.

## More and More, the Center of World Attention



The reconstructed Lincoln-Berry store. Lean-to at rear sometimes served as Lincoln's sleeping quarters.

The cooper shop is the only original building standing in New Salem today. It was here that Lincoln and Isaac Onstot, son of the cooper, studied together by the light of the cooper's shavings.

This portrait of Lincoln was used as a campaign photograph during the presidential campaign of 1860.

Street scene in rebuilt New Salem, Ill., as it was 100 years ago.

Rutledge tavern where Abraham Lincoln met his first love Ann Rutledge.



# Modern Progress And Pioneer Simplicity Share Limelight In Reopening Lincoln Postoffice

Unlike the ceremony which re-opened New Salem as a permanent public shrine, dedication of the old pioneer postoffice yesterday was an occasion which highlighted rapid progress of American civilization in sharp contrasts.

Against a backdrop of pioneer simplicity, a new streamlined generation gave tribute with modern instruments to an old historic outpost, a lone settlement the memory of which will forever be kept alive because Abraham Lincoln spent the early years of his life there—and because he was in fact its first efficient postmaster.

There was an amazing difference between sleek motor cars, trucks carrying sound equipment and several thousand citizens attired in modern garb milling about a cluster of prairie cabins.

There was sharp contrast, too, in the formal setting—the postoffice cabin dwarfed like a doll's house under the billowing top of a huge circus tent, with a speaker's stand, press row and bandstand flanking two sides, and long rows of spectators' benches spanning the sawdust covered clay floor.

## Furnaces Heat Tent.

Other modern touches were two furnaces with roaring oil fires, blowing waves of heat into opposite ends of the tent enclosure, an array of radio equipment with wires strung over the small cabin, and a battery of photo floodlamps which cast changing shadows on a small sign swinging below the cabin eaves bearing the words, "Lincoln's New Salem Postoffice."

The day was bleak and, according to old timers, "pretty good New Salem winter weather considering everything."

Outside the tent the village itself presented a perfect winter scene. On surrounding snow-spotted hills and down in the narrow, winding Sangamon river valley there were the same bare white oaks, black walnuts, maples and elms, timber which provided prime shelter and fuel for the original settlement and which was used again when state architects came to rebuild the town.

and U. S. Senators Scott W. Lucas and James M. Slattery as passengers.

A small sack of specially marked mail nestled in back of Farley as the old coach rambled down the main street. Anderson, a veteran driver of coaches and fours, handled the team with skill, steering the coach without a hitch to a stop near a row of stumps at the end of the trail.

Press representatives and cameramen from all types of newspapers and publications crowded the press section. They were augmented by a swarm of candid camera fans who brought along their own flash equipment, and kept up a barrage of shots from the time notables filed into the tent until John A. Gellerman, of Petersburg, received his commission as postmaster at the end of the program.

There was the carnival touch, too, in a hot dog stand in a cabin at the far end of the village, with the aroma of hot coffee blending with a sharp wind blowing from nearby prairies across the hill, and a crowd of hungry spectators furnishing the proprietor a land office business.

There were a number of flare-backs to practices and customs commonplace in the day of Postmaster Lincoln. Sam Knudson, of Springfield, clad in a tasseled buckskin jacket and a coonskin cap, galloped pony express style all the way from Springfield along the muddy side of a modern Lincoln trail highway, carrying some twelve hundred letters from the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden association in his saddlebags.

## Boy Scouts Carry Mail.

One hundred and four Boy Scouts, members of the Abraham Lincoln council, hiked the old trail in relays, toting a sack with 580 special letters for the occasion. They traveled the old route through Sangamo Town and Athens, and crossed ice covered Sangamon and Rolls Ford afoot to reach their objective. And when Postmaster General Farley was concluding his speech, the motor of a mail carrying airliner circled overhead and dropped a sack containing more than two hundred other letters in the village clearing.

Even the old stagecoach mode of transportation was revived when Postmaster Farley rode to the tent atop a four horse carriage with Dorsey B. Anderson, postmaster at the National Livestock Yards in East St. Louis, holding the reins,



2/12/40

The reconstructed Lincoln-Berry store. Lean-to at rear sometimes served as Lincoln's sleeping quarters.

The cooper shop is the only original building standing in New Salem today. It was here that Lincoln and Isaac Onstot, son of the cooper, studied together by the light of the cooper's shavings.



This portrait of Lincoln was used as a campaign photograph during the presidential campaign of 1860.

Street scene in rebuilt New Salem, Ill., as it was 100 years ago.

Rutledge tavern where Abraham Lincoln met his first love Ann Rutledge.

## LINCOLN'S TOWN LIVES AGAIN . . .

Now, 100 years after the decline of New Salem, Ill., the village where Abraham Lincoln spent six formative years, is living again. Sixteen of the old cabins have been rebuilt on original sites. The store where Lincoln weighed out a pound of tea looks much like it did in the old days.



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## New Salem Highlights

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Thousands of letters poured into a slot in the newly decorated postoffice cabin during and after the dedication ceremonies. All of them were marked with a special cachet commemorating the event. The state provided an illustrated envelope cover to the public. In addition, there were special covers prepared by the Poor Richard Press, of Chicago; special air mail envelopes designed by stamp collectors; commemorative covers printed by the St. Louis Star-Times, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and a score of other unusual types of stationery.

T. J. Borucki, of Berwyn, whose hobby is coin collecting, donated complete cards of buffalo nickels and Lincoln pennies to the museum collection at the park. The former contained sixty-nine perfect coins, and the latter eighty-nine. Borucki said the gift completes a task he began several years ago. He has already donated similar collections to the Chicago Historical library, Lincoln Memorial university at Harrogate, Tenn.; Father Coughlin, the radio priest, and Dr. Preston Bradley, noted Chicago clergyman. George H. Luker, head of the state park division, accepted the gift on behalf of the state.

Postmasters from other cities aided Postmaster John A. Gellerman in his crowded cabin office as a deluge of special mail filled every corner of the small structure. Included in the group was Rufus Jackson, postmaster at St. Louis.

One hundred and four local Boy Scouts, all members of Abraham Lincoln council, carried a sack of mail afoot in relays across the old Lincoln trail. William Dobbs, of Troop 16, started at the postoffice and Stuart Ruch, jr., plumped the sack down on Postmaster Gellerman's counter in the postoffice cabin at New Salem. Covering the old Sangamo Town-Athens route, the boys were forced to ferry the Sangamon river at Rolls Ford. Dob Arm-

brust carried it across on a layer of thin melting ice at that spot. Scoutmasters who supervised the trip included Stuart Ruch, sr., troop 9; Hall Videmour, troop 16; John Wilson, troop 19; Ray Morer, troop 28, and Dr. Raymond C. Walters, troop 35. The trip started at 9 a. m. and ended at 1:45 p. m. The troops are members of an organization known as the Lincoln Neighborhood Scouting league, and all its members have walked the trail as part of their regular training.

The element of bad weather was overcome in great measure by the huge 80x120 foot tent which Walter C. Armbruster erected at the scene for his firm, R. H. Armbruster & Co. Armbruster admitted it was one of the "toughest" jobs he has had to meet in his long career as a tent man. Every comfort possible was provided spectators. The ground was covered with sawdust, six foot canvass runners were laid on the aisles, and two oil burning furnaces were installed at opposite ends. Riggers experienced difficulty in getting canvas over the cabin due to a thick coating of ice on the roof.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13 1940

## G.A.R. Veterans Visit New Salem Village as Encampment Here Ends

The Grand Army of the Republic, which closed business sessions of the 74th annual encampment here Thursday, today centered its interest on New Salem as members trudged and rode through the reconstructed village where their Civil War leader, Abraham Lincoln, spent his early manhood.

Many of the Grand Army men were paying their first visit, and perhaps their last, to New Salem and all were impressed with the surroundings. Many additional buildings have been reconstructed since 1932, when the last encampment was held here.

Late in the day most of the veterans will start for their homes to recount for relatives and friends the thrills of their journey to Springfield and the honors bestowed on them.

Commander-in-Chief W. W. Nixon, 94, of Jewell, Kan., who was elected Thursday, conferred for a short time today with aides relative to operation of the G. A. R. during the ensuing year and plans for the 1941 encampment, a site for which will be selected shortly after January 1, when necessary appropriations have been made by cities and states extending invitations. St. Louis, Grand Rapids, Mich., Hollywood and Santa Barbara, Calif., are seeking next year's encampment. The G. A. R. executive committee will choose between them.

Other officers elected and appointed are: Thomas Ambrose, Chicago, senior vice commander; Rustan C. Reed, Seattle, junior vice commander; Dr. Edward H. Cowan, Crawfordsville, Ind., surgeon-general; Rev. Joshua C. Pearce, Denver, chaplain-in-chief; Thomas J. Noll, Des Moines, Ia.; judge advocate-general; Col. Russell Martin, Los Angeles, adjutant-general, and Miss Katherine R. A. Flood, secretary.

Officially registered for this year's encampment were 93 Grand Army men. Less than 1,000 of the more

than 2,000,000 who fought in 1861-65 are still living.

The free concert of the U. S. Marine band, here for the encampment, was attended by a crowd estimated at 10,000 in the state armory Thursday night. All of the 7,500 seats were filled and hundreds stood throughout the numbers, applauding loudly at the conclusion of each.

Captain William F. Santelman, director, was presented with a baton from wood of the first Sangamon county courthouse by J. A. Landon, 1819 South Eighth street.



# Lincoln Is Revered In New Village

## Re-created Memorials To Great Emancipator At New Salem Impressive Sight to Visitors

Illinois is truly "The Lincoln Country." It was in Illinois that the immortal Civil War President grew to his full stature, and the influence of the rugged frontier life in New Salem, and his struggles to succeed almost overwhelming odds, enabled him to face the black days of the War between the States with courage and determination.

### Shrines to His Memory.

Visitors to Illinois today see on all sides the reverence with which his memory is held. Most impressive of all Lincoln memorials is the "Lincoln Village"—New Salem—20 miles northwest of Springfield, the State Capitol. It was at New Salem that Lincoln entered politics, little dreaming that his career was to culminate as President of the United States.

Abraham Lincoln came to New Salem in 1831, and he resided there until the spring of 1837, when he left for Springfield to enter the practice of law. He left for a time to serve in the Black Hawk War, returning to spend the following years in preparing himself for his career. At New Salem, he met Ann Rutledge, only to lose her in death a short time later.

### Village Faithfully Rebuilt.

Visitors to New Salem today, see the entire village as it appeared during the years Abraham Lincoln lived there. Following the winding footpaths along the dirt road, leading from one log cabin past others to the central commons across which the Berry-Lincoln store and Rutledge Tavern face each other, it is difficult to believe that just beyond the hill is a modern concrete highway, with its constant flow of motor cars.

Each building is built upon the exact site of the original, and each is an authentic reproduction of its predecessor. So faithful has the reconstruction been done that few visitors can distinguish between the original building which housed Henry Onstott's cooperage, and the rebuilt Onstott home next door. The cabins are furnished as they originally appeared, even to the stocks of merchandise on the shelves of the store operated by Abraham Lincoln.

### Lincoln Home and Tomb.

In Springfield, Illinois, are the Lincoln Home and Tomb, which annually attract thousands of visitors from all over the world to pay homage to the memory of Abraham Lincoln.

The square white frame building at the corner of Eighth and Jackson streets in Springfield looks like many another of the older well-kept homes in the city. Only the flagpole at the corner, and the bronze plaque by the gate give any outward indication that it is different from the rest. Upon entering, however, the visitor unconsciously speaks in subdued tones, as the atmosphere of age and reverence envelops him.

This, the only home ever owned by Abraham Lincoln, and where he lived from 1844 until 1861, is preserved as a memorial, with many of the original furnishings actually used by the Lincoln family during their occupancy.

In Oak Ridge Cemetery, on the north edge of town, is the Lincoln Tomb, its marble shaft rising high above the base which holds the sarcophagus where rests the ashes of Abraham Lincoln.

### Statues, Markers, Cabins.

Abraham Lincoln did not restrict his activities to the vicinity of Springfield. In his legal work and during his famous debates with Stephen A. Douglas, he visited many other cities in the State. Statues have been erected at many of these points, markers indicate others, and visitors to Illinois can trace Lincoln's career by noting these memorials to him.

Among the newer memorials, is the reconstruction of the home which Abraham Lincoln's father built in 1837, where he lived until his death in 1851. This is located in Lincoln Log Cabin State Park, in Coles County, near the city of Charleston.

### True Spirit of Lincoln.

Visitors to Illinois capture the true realization of Lincoln's rugged simplicity from visits to the memorials in the State. The multitudes who annually pause in awed reverence at the shrines dedicated to his immortal memory, go on their way with a feeling that they truly know his greatness.



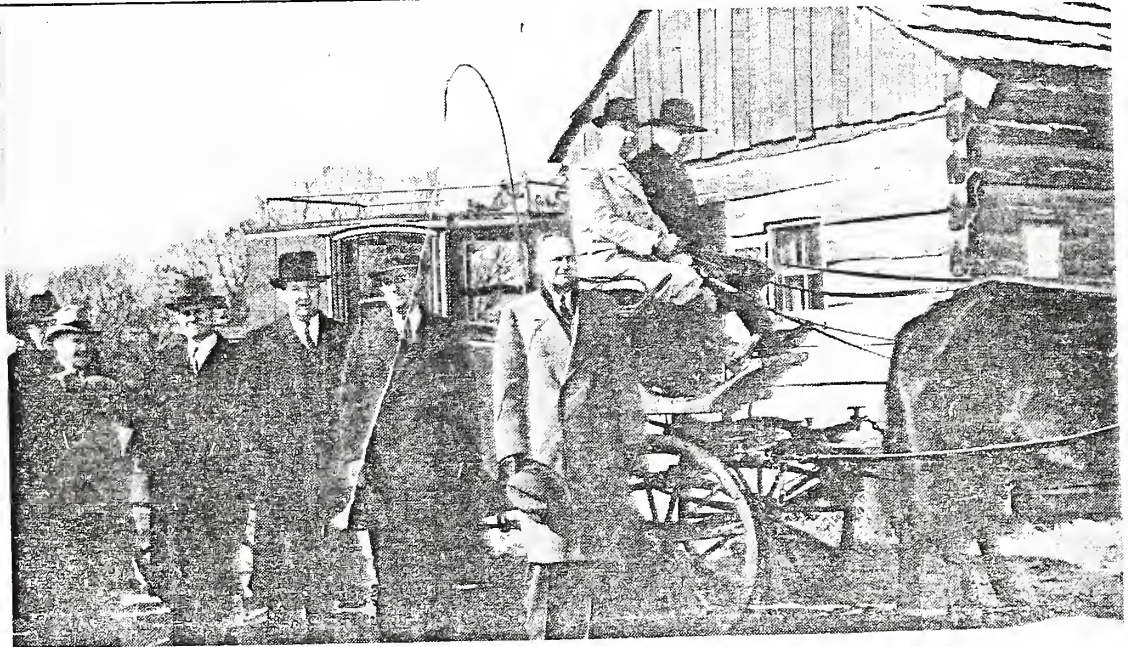
# IN ILLINOIS' HISTORIC "LINCOLN COUNTRY"

Rutledge tavern, where Abraham Lincoln courted Ann Rutledge, is one of the reconstructed buildings in New Salem State park, 20 miles northwest of Springfield, Ill.



*Resumes Where Abe Quit*

After Over Century Lincoln's Postoffice Open Again





—State Journal Photos.

Turning back the pages of history yesterday another chapter was added to the reconstruction of the famed village of New Salem when "Lincoln's New Salem Postoffice" was dedicated on the Civil war president's one hundred and thirty-first birthday anniversary.

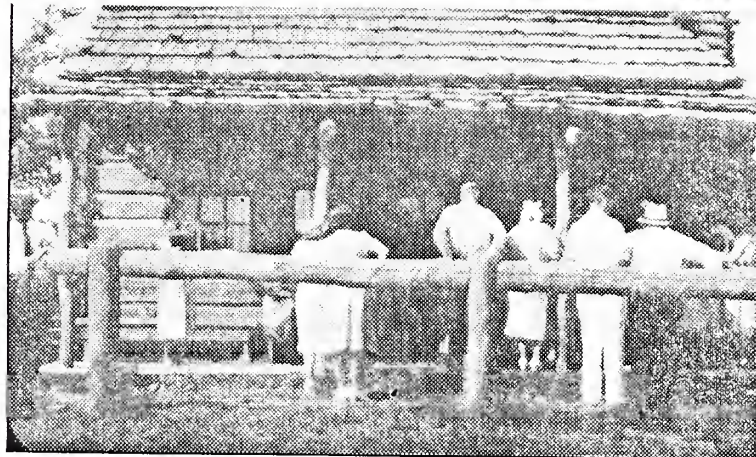
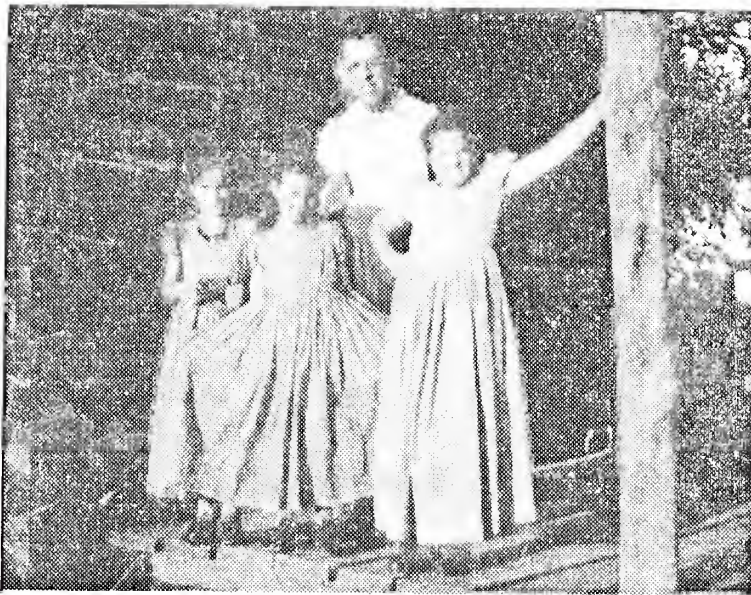
Pictured above is an old stagecoach carrying a sack of first mail to the postoffice with Dorsey B. Anderson, postmaster, at the National Livestock yards at East St. Louis, holding the reins, and Postmaster General James A. Farley alongside.

Standing in front of the vehicle are, left to right: Congressman John C. Martin of Salem; State Treasurer Louie E. Lewis; Congressman James M. Barnes, Jacksonville; Harry B. Hershey, Taylorville, and U. S. Senator Scott W. Lucas, Havana. Pictured below is John A. Gellerman, Petersburg, receiving his commission as postmaster of the recreated postoffice from Farley with Senator Lucas looking on.

More than five thousand persons attended the dedication despite cloudy skies, and muddy footing. State and national officials were on hand for the dedicatory program.



## Relive Lincoln Days At New Salem



Picture at top: Margy Ann, Mary Jane and Violet Joan Beck with their Uncle, Postmaster John Gellerman.

At bottom: Rebuilt Post Office at New Salem, Ill., where Lincoln was Postmaster.

### BY VIOLET JOAN BECK,

2429 Miner Street, 7A, Hoagland School.

I had a very interesting Summer at Lincoln's New Salem, Ill. This state park which is dedicated to Abe Lincoln, is located 18 miles northwest of Springfield. In this village Lincoln lived six years of his life. He was a clerk in a store; this is where he got the name of Honest Abe. In May, 1833, he was appointed postmaster.

A few years later this village was deserted for the more thriving town of Petersburg. In 1906 they started a movement to build this village back up; by 1918 six houses were put back on the original foundations and gained the attention of the world.

Now there are about twenty-five buildings in this state park, and they again have a United States post office.

My uncle, John Gellerman, of Petersburg, Ill., was appointed and sworn in by Postmaster General

Farley February 12, 1940. About seven thousand people were at the dedication as there had not been a postmaster in the old log cabin since Abe Lincoln.

The Government brought the mail in four different ways, by pony express from Springfield, by airplane from St. Louis, Mo., by stage coach from Petersburg and train from Springfield.

They will not permit any cars or bicycles to drive in this park. My uncle and aunt have to dress like Abe Lincoln and Ann Rutledge did in 1833. My twin sisters and I, while we were visiting there three months last Summer, dressed in the same manner, and played we were pioneer girls. We had trouble running and playing at first, because our dresses reached the ground.

In our picture you will see us in the long braids and dresses.

We met many people, and have autographs from all over the world.

We correspond with many friends we made.

# Restored Mill At New Salem To Recall Times Of Lincoln

The opening of the restored New Salem mill on the Sangamon river next June will recall many incidents in Abraham Lincoln's career as a mill hand, Charles P. Casey, director of the department of public works and buildings, reported yesterday in summarizing the progress of work at the village.

Casey reported the restoration of the mill is more than 75 per cent completed. "The dam is now nearing its final stages." Casey said, "Wooden gears and metal parts are in storage awaiting installation, and the rest of the necessary construction is progressing rapidly. The mill will be in actual operation next June and will add to the attractiveness of the village."

During the last 100 years, the Sangamon river has altered its course around the old dam. Because of the channel change, state park officials found that to restore the dam exactly as it was on its original site would require changing the river back to its initial course. This would have been an expensive undertaking, Casey said.

State architects finally agreed to allow the river to maintain its present channel and build the dam on its original site, powering the mill with impounded water. A mill pond is now under construction south of the dam to be supplied with water pumped from the river. A pumping station which will pump the water from the river to the pond is almost completed.

In order to construct the mill pond, dispose of the excess excavation, provide a proper setting for the mill, and landscape the historical spot, it was necessary for the state to purchase twenty-seven additional acres of land.

The mill will be operated by an attendant dressed in blue jeans and cambric shirt of the 1830's. Cornmeal will be ground and sold in small quantities in meal sacks bearing a likeness of the youthful Lincoln. The saw mill, with a vertical saw, will also be in operation.

"The original mill building," Casey said, "was walled with logs, with stone filling to add to its stability. It was operated by two large wheels, one to saw logs and the other to grind corn and smaller grain. The wheel which powered the sawmill was a turbine which rotated on a vertical shaft with the

flow of water through an opening in the dam. The second wheel which transmitted its power to the stone burrs was undershot and operated by the flow of water against its blades.

The mill was built in 1828 by James Rutledge and John Camron, co-founders of the village of Salem. Lincoln operated the mill in 1831-32 for eight months for Denton Offut.

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# Old Salem League To Have Program

**Dr. S. W. McClelland To  
Speak Feb. 11.**

Petersburg Jan. 25.—More than 150 members of the Old Salem Lincoln league will pay tribute to the memory of Abraham Lincoln at a banquet in the Christian church at Petersburg Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 6:30 p. m.

The principal speaker at the affair will be Dr. Stewart W. McClelland, president of Lincoln Memorial university at Harrogate, Tenn. Others scheduled to attend and appear on the program include Pierre Nuyttens of Chicago, who was knighted chevalier by King Albert of Belgium during the World war, and Charles Lum, also of Chicago, director of the pageant presented last fall at New Salem state park.

Doctor McClelland, specially invited by Henry E. Pond, Petersburg, president of the league and in charge of the program, has an enviable record as an educator.

Lincoln Memorial university was founded following a suggestion by President Lincoln in an effort to break down the feeling between the north and south. Most of the students at the school are descendants of southerners of Civil war days, and many interesting situations develop through the endeavor to break down the wall between the north and south. The school's publication is known as "The Blue and Gray," while the principal men's dormitory has been named "Grant-Lee Hall."

Following Doctor McClelland's address, a forum will find such Lincoln experts as Judge James Bollinger and Harry J. Lytle, both of Davenport, Ia.; Drs. M. L. Houser and L. O. Schriber, both of Peoria, and Jewell Stevens and Henry Ripstra, both of Chicago, participating.

Attendance to the affair is limited due to facilities, and reservations for banquet tickets must be made at once to Henry E. Pond, Petersburg.

## \$5,743 Collected In Dimes Drive

### Final Report Will Be Given Soon.

Gross collections to date in the "Mile of Dimes" campaign, which closed last week after a two weeks drive, total \$5,743.67, it was reported yesterday by Paul Noonan, treasurer of the Sangamon County Infantile Paralysis organization.

The organization sponsored the drive to raise funds to fight infantile paralysis in the United States.

Various agencies contributing to the gross collections were: "Mile of Dimes" booths, \$2,448.71; special contributions, \$510; coin cards, \$1,733.11; "March of Dimes" ball, \$620.22; sports events sponsored by the city playground and recreation commission, \$68.18; and coin boxes, \$363.45. Placed end to end, the dimes would stretch out for two-thirds of a mile.

A final report will be given by Mr. Noonan as soon as the remaining special contributions and reports on coin cards are made and the coin boxes are collected.

E. D. Olinger, chairman of the county organization, yesterday asked those having coin cards to turn them in immediately to the headquarters in Hotel Abraham Lincoln.

High school students who completed their quota in the "Mile of Dimes" campaign were entertained at a free movie yesterday by the management of the Orpheum theatre. Paramount Pictures Corp., Chicago, donated the films and the Theatre and Stage Employees local 138 and Motion Picture Operators local 323 donated \$28, equal to the cost of their services.

## Old Salem Lincoln League To Hold Annual Banquet Feb. 11

Petersburg, Feb. 1.—Reservations for their five members of the Petersburg Rotary club today boosted interest in the annual banquet of the Old Salem Lincoln league at the Christian church here Feb. 11 at 6:30 p. m.

The Rotarians will be seated in a group according to Henry E. Pond, president of the league, which each year pays tribute to the memory of Abraham Lincoln on the eve of his birthday.

Principal speaker at the affair this year will be Dr. Stewart W. McClelland, president of Lincoln Memorial university at Harrogate, Tenn. Dr. McClelland has chosen as the topic for his address "Lincoln, the Tolerant."

Following the address a forum will be conducted with Lincolnia experts from throughout the middle west taking part.

President Pond has asked that all persons desiring to attend the affair make dinner reservations at once, since facilities limit the attendance.



DR. S. W. McCLELLAND.



## LINCOLN'S NEW SALEM

A great tribute to one of our best loved presidents is the rebuilding of the scenes of his youth, now known as Lincoln's New Salem, in Illinois. This town has been rebuilt exactly as it was when Abraham Lincoln walked its streets, greeted his friends, and worked to achieve success. High in a wooded spot, the log cabins have been rebuilt on the original foundations, small trees have been set, and stumps brought in to represent the clearing just as it appeared in pioneer days. The streets are laid out exactly as they were when Lincoln traveled them. Even the herb garden, and corn and tobacco patches have their rail fences.

No American can visit these scenes of Lincoln's youth, see his store and the homes where he roomed, without feeling a nearness to this great man. The places he loved, things he touched, instill in us an awed reverence, and inspire a greater patriotic spirit and desire to do for our country all that we can.

And so we have it—Lincoln's New Salem—so that all who love Lincoln may visit the scenes he loved, and come away a better person for having felt his presence there. ANN AMERICAN.  
Iowa.

# NEW SALEM AS IT WAS

## Lincoln's Illinois Town Nearly Completed as Patriotic Shrine

*New York Times 2-9-41*  
By KUNIGUNDE DUNCAN

**N**EW SALEM, ILL.—To recede from a thriving grist-mill village in 1830 to a deserted village in 1840, to a decayed and vanished village after 1860 and to reappear, restored in every detail, in 1941 is the unique history of this town.

Log for log, rude door for rude door, tiny window for tiny window, its cabins and stores, its cooper shop, carding-shed, tannery and other buildings stand again as they stood originally, flanking a half-mile length of grassy road. As it nears the edge of the bluff upon which the village stands, this road swerves sharply down the precipitous face of the bluff and leads the visitor to the bend in the Sangamon River, where is to stand the water grist-mill, reproduction of the one in which the gawky Abe Lincoln worked in his early manhood. In the village, back around the bend of the road, this young man was a clerk and a store owner, surveyor and postmaster, lawyer and legislator.

### Town of Frontier Days

That he lived and found his stride here accounts for the restoration of New Salem. The patriotic pilgrim who has tasted the dignity and fineness of living of colonial days through visiting Mount Vernon will find a contrasting rudeness in the Lincoln shrine at the crest of Salem Hill, twenty miles north of Springfield, on Highway 66. It is not even visible until the motorist is right upon it, for it lies on the level top of a flat river bluff, hidden and cut off from highway noise by thick-set timber—oak, beech, walnut, ash and butternut—which in Spring is tangled with a fragrant undergrowth of wild roses and wild crab. Fresh from cement and bustle and high buildings and noise, a visitor comes upon it unexpectedly. Its low cabins, surrounded by unclipped grass, one glance brings back the meagerness and one-room kind of living of the townsfolk of frontier days.

In 1906 William Randolph Hearst bought the Salem site and gave it in trust to the local Salem Chautauqua Association. They, in turn, made it over to the State of Illinois which, in 1921, built a museum near the spot. When Governor Horner was elected in 1932 he at once set about restoring the village itself. The restoration has proceeded slowly

ly for eight years. A local historical association, Old Salem Lincoln League, assumed the responsibility of collecting furnishings for the cabins and stores. Cooking equipment, tools, farm implements, spinning wheels, bedding and furniture, even the very pamphlets and books and powder horns that once served the New Salemites are back again.

### The Final Buildings

The next few months are to see the village completed, the grist-mill and the school house being the last items. The CCC boys, who have done most of the work of resurrection, grin and tell you that they have to get up a few more loads of logs, yet. The shakes still have to be put on Dr. Allen's well-house and there is one more lye hopper to build, in Herndon's back yard.

The town comprises a scant dozen log buildings. In one of these, a little while ago, the postoffice of New Salem was re-established after 100 years of being out of commission as a United States mailing station.

The restoration of the little ghost village has been done with strict veracity and because of that it has

taken much longer to rebuild than the pioneers needed to build it originally. Their logs were at hand. But even the fine timber that grows in Sangamon and Menard Counties could not furnish enough logs for the restored New Salem. In 1830, people could and did "raise" a cabin in a day.

Old-timers helped to establish house sites. When work finally got under way, and the tall grass was cut from the ground that had been pasture land for seventy-five years, remnants of old foundations and chimneys were found. A copy of the original plat of the surveyor, and land title records, placed together with knowledge of people still living who had been children in New Salem, produced the new plat by which New Salem was "laid out" a second time.

### Village Sports Arena

As the visitor climbs back up the road from the mill site on the Sangamon, the half-way spot is marked by Offcut's store, where Lincoln spent his first weeks in New Salem as a clerk. Near by is Clary's grocery. This road today must be much the same as it was then, for it is overhung with fine shade trees and broadens out near the brow of the bluff into a grassy level space. Here cockfights, wrestling matches, races and gander pullings, and even rougher encounters, took place. Here Lincoln was chosen captain in the Black Hawk War. This is the "downtown" end, hidden from the direct view of the rest of the village by the acute angle in the road.

Reaching the turn, a pilgrim enters Rutledge's Tavern, facing the main road to the north and the old Springfield road to the west. It is completely furnished. As tall a guest as Lincoln would have to jack-knife acutely to adapt a six-foot plus to these squat, four-poster, bequilted beds. The guest, today, may register here and may walk through the 18x20-foot main room. But the other rooms of the inn, as of all the cabins down the road, may be only looked into, from doorstoops, over the half-door.

Running west from the tavern corner the sandy, almost straight road is flanked by a double row of unevenly spaced cabins and shops, the only two-story one being the house of the rich man of New Salem a hundred years ago, Samuel Hill. Furnishings that once did duty in New Salem are to be found in all the other cabins, but the Hill house holds the very things, placed in the very places where Mr. Hill's Kentucky bride placed them long ago—Kentucky-made "blanket chests," a chest of drawers, splint-bottom chairs, plates, a Dutch oven, a spinning wheel.



# New Salem Is Being Restored

## Prosperity Left City With Lincoln

NEW SALEM, Ill., Feb. 11 (AP) Abraham Lincoln and prosperity walked out of New Salem at about the same time—more than 100 years ago.

Lincoln went to Springfield to continue the public career which led to the presidency. New Salem went into a slump within two years after Lincoln left. On Lincoln's birthday, 1941, there remains only one of the original buildings that stood here when the young Lincoln clerked in the Offut store and met and courted Ann Rutledge.

### JUST A MEMORY

Lincoln lives only in memory and legend, but the town, which died before he had reached the peak of his career, is coming back.

Reconstruction of New Salem, started by the state in 1932, has brought back 13 cabins, six shops, and the Rutledge tavern, where "Honest Abe" boarded and stayed up late at night entertaining fellow boarders with his endless store of yarns.

The only one of the 30 original buildings that remains is the Onstot cooper shop, where Abe and his friend, Isaac Onstot, studied Blackstone, Shakespeare and Burns by the light of the fire kindled with the cooper's shavings.

### MILL BEING BUILT

Under construction now is the saw and grist mill, which was originally built by James Rutledge and John Cameron, co-founders of the village.

This summer the state will begin reconstruction of the Mentor Graham schoolhouse which served also as a church. Plans for operating the Hill carding mill by ox power will be carried out. Well over \$500,000 is being expended by the state and the national park service in the restoration.

2/11/41

# Town, Which Hit Depression When Lincoln Left, Comes Back

Associated Press Feature Service.

NEW SALEM, Ill., Feb. 12.—

Abraham Lincoln and prosperity walked out of New Salem at about the same time—more than 100 years ago.

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The site of New Salem Park was originally acquired by William Randolph Hearst, who later transferred it to the Chautauqua Association. In 1918, however, with the consent of Hearst, it was turned over to the state.

The buildings are furnished with authentic relics, including the surveying instruments, saddlebags and mattock, and letters of Lincoln, the Rutledge family Bible, a wooden clock sold in the Berry-Lincoln store, and a side saddle used by Ann Rutledge.



2 2 4  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1941. Section

## New Salem as Lincoln Knew It Being Rebuilt by Park Service

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# Old Lincoln Mill Near Restoration

**Work On Historic Land-  
mark Scheduled for  
Completion In June.**

Springfield, Ill.—(U.P.)—Another step in the restoration of New Salem, the log cabin frontier town in which Abraham Lincoln spent his youth, will be completed in June with the opening of the Denton Offut mill at which Lincoln worked as a hand in 1831-32.

The original mill was built in 1828 by James Rutledge, father of Lincoln's sweetheart, Ann, and John Cameron, co-founders of the village of New Salem. Later it was sold to Denton Offut.

Reporting on progress of the restoration project, Charles Casey, director of the public works department, which is supervising the work, said: "The mill would be a Lincoln relic of great importance even had Lincoln never spent eight months operating it for Offut."

"Historians have pointed out that if Lincoln's flatboat had not stranded on the mill dam in 1830, he would not have returned to the village the following year and to-day even the memory of New Salem would be lost," Casey said.

## Mill Had Two Wheels.

"The original mill built of logs had two wheels, one to grind corn and grain, the other to saw logs. The wheel for the sawmill rotated on a vertical shaft with the flow of water through an opening in the dam. The other was undershot and operated by a flow of water against its blades."

Casey said the restored mill is now more than 75 per cent completed, with the dam nearing its final stages and wooden and metal gears and parts in storage awaiting installation. The mill will be in operation in June, he said, "and will add immeasurably to the village."

After much study and discussion, he said, the dam and mill are being rebuilt on their original locations, despite difficulties resulting from topographical changes in the last 100 years since the village declined and was abandoned.

When the state first began restoration work at the village, architects found that the Sangamon river, on which the mill was located, had altered its course around the dam to the right, and back in front of the dam again where it bends sharply right.

To restore the dam exactly as it was on its original site would have entailed much expense in recouring the river, buying land and erecting flood levees. It was finally agreed to build a mill pond, drawing water from the river, to power the dam.

The pond, for which 27 acres was purchased, is under construction south of the dam. A pumping station to supply river water is nearly completed. The 27 acres were necessary for landscaping, disposal of excess excavation and to provide a proper mill setting.

Upon completion, the restored mill will be operated by an attendant dressed in the blue jeans and cambric shirt of the 1830 period. Cornmeal will be ground and sold in small quantities in meal-sacks bearing a likeness of the backwoods youth who later became President. At regular intervals, the sawmill will cut lumber from logs.



# NEW SALEM HAS THE SPIRIT OF LINCOLN'S "OLD HOME TOWN"

The Village the Martyred President Knew Has Been Accurately Reproduced to Impress Modern Tourists With the Pioneer Life That Molded His Character.

**N**EW SALEM, ILL., Feb. 8.—Of all the historic landmarks along the Lincoln trail, none so completely recaptures the spirit of the rugged pioneer President as this restored primitive village of New Salem, situated high on a bluff overlooking the Sangamon river valley, about twenty miles northwest of Springfield.

New Salem, an Illinois State park, is an authentic restoration of the hamlet where Abraham Lincoln launched upon his famous career that was to lead him to the White House. A sleepy village, wind-swept and primitive, complete with the split rail fences and the rough-hewn log cabins of frontier days, New Salem stands at the end of the long Lincoln trail over which thousands of tourists pass each year.

It was in New Salem that Lincoln met and first loved young Ann Rutledge, whose death was one of the most tragic events in his life; it was here that the martyred President tasted his first political defeat when he unsuccessfully attempted to gain a seat in the state legislature.

At the time of Lincoln's occupancy, Salem was a small, Midwest settlement, with the rough frontier element clearly stamped on its rude dwellings. One of the long chain of settlements strewn across the country in the years of the westward movement, it consisted only of a score of log houses and three or four poorly constructed shops. In one of these, a cooper's shop, Lincoln slept on the wood floor and studied in the dim light of a fire kindled by the cooper's shavings.

Today, the original appearance of this frontier town has been miraculously recaptured. There are no sidewalks on top of the windy bluff, only the well worn footpaths that lead from cabin to cabin. Sometimes a large stone looms up in the way, a foothold placed there during the rainy seasons of the year.

## To Ruins After Lincoln Left.

Only one of the original buildings, the Onstot cooper shop, stands untouched as it was in Lincoln's time. The others are faithful reproductions, placed so far as could be determined on the exact site of their predecessors, and furnished complete with early American relics, trundle beds, wheat cradles, candle molds, flax shuttles, wool cards, copper kettles swinging at the hearths and spotless pieces of ironstone on the tables.

According to history, Lincoln traveled west with his family from Spencer County, Indiana, about 1830, and aided them in settling on the Illinois prairie land. Later he left them and started on his own, finding his way to New Salem, where first he worked in the store of Denton Offut.

During the following six years, he worked here as millhand, clerk, storekeeper, postmaster, and, later,

as deputy surveyor. In his first attempt to reach the state legislature he was defeated, but in 1834 and again in 1836 he was a successful candidate for the seat.

In the entire time of his occupancy, the village grew very little. Not long after Lincoln's departure for Springfield in 1837, it was deserted and gradually fell into ruin, the wilderness spreading its cloak over the once thriving settlement and completely hiding it.

Not until 1906 was any attempt made to restore New Salem to its original form. At that time William Randolph Hearst, publisher, was a visitor at Petersburg, Ill., where he lectured before the Old Salem Chautauqua association. Becoming interested in the village site, Hearst

it, off and on, until his death in 1935. The store is a 1-room building, with a lean-to in the rear in which Lincoln lived during the better part of a year. Today the shelves have been refurnished with calico bolts, implements for farming, pewter and earthenware jars and items of merchandise typical of the period.

Across from this store is the Rutledge tavern where Lincoln met Ann Rutledge, daughter of the proprietor. Old kitchen utensils and tableware have been placed in the restored tavern which was first built in the fall of 1828. It consists of two large log rooms with an attic above, and a side addition of two small frame rooms on the south. After the Rutledges' departure from Salem before Ann's death, the tavern was sold to Jacob Bale and the building became known as the "Bale House." It is believed to have been the first building constructed in New Salem and the last to remain standing, falling to the ground about 1880.

Far removed from the other buildings of the settlement are the Denton Offut store and the Clary grocery. Abe Lincoln aided Offut in erecting his store in 1831 and served

ings in the settlement, as from the standpoint of the tourist, is the home of Dr. John Allen, whose office was a part of the house. Mortars and pestles, surgeon's instruments and old medical texts are carefully placed on the tables of the cabin. The Allen home, a 3-room log cabin, was built in 1833 and was occupied until 1842, when it was abandoned. The doctor was one of the most prosperous members of the community and was a devout Presbyterian. He established the village's first Sunday school in his own home and later founded the Temperance society.

In all of these cabins careful thought and energy have been devoted to the restoration. Outside, the gardens have been carefully replanted where it is thought likely the originals were, while throughout the settlement new trees and shrubs have been set out. In summer the whole park is brightened by the varying color of the redhaw, Osage orange hedges, wild crab and plum trees, shadblow and wild blackberry and gooseberry bushes.

There is a feeling of compactness in the village, although the cabins themselves are placed well apart from each other. The buildings are small, however, and there is little or no wasted space in any of them. Windows are encased in glass so that visitors can see easily into the cabins and the doors are usually open, although entrance to the buildings is prohibited.

## One Modern Building.

Only one building stands in the entire area that is not hewn of the rough logs. It is a concrete museum of Lincolniana, so situated that it is well hidden from the general view of the settlement.

The entire atmosphere of New Salem is that of solitude and primitiveness. Nowhere is there a sign of the modern comforts Americans of today take so for granted. Walking along the barren ground on the windy hill-top one senses the struggles necessary to life on the early American frontier, the drudgery of everyday existence, and even the utter poverty.

And yet there is a pervading contentment in New Salem! Looking over the plains below the bluff, there is only a glimpse of the famed Sangamon river on which Lincoln started his famous trip downstream to New Orleans. Distances were great then, and yet, despite the modern concrete highways winding in every direction below, one can still imagine the uncut wilderness of the 1830s.

And high above these modern roadways streaming with automobiles and flanked with filling stations, tourist camps and roadside counters there stands a peaceful village of a former day, a frontier settlement, rough and uncontrolled. New Salem is one of the most fascinating shrines in all America. In the midst of this scene is reflected the spirit of a man who, perhaps more than any other, strove to make America the unified country it is today.

SHELTON P. STONE, JR.

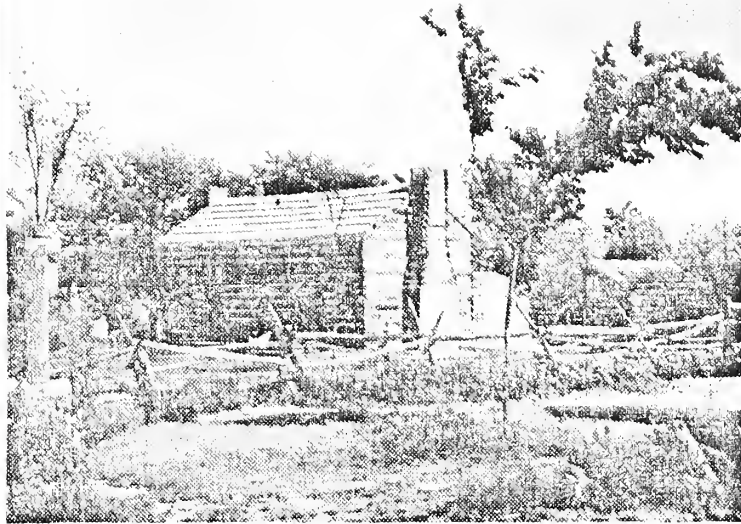
## WASTED TALENT.

From the Furrow.

Businessman—What do you do with all these pictures you paint?

Modernistic Artist—Why, I sell them!

Businessman—What? Name your terms! I've been looking for a salesman like you for years.



RUTLEDGE TAVERN, NEW SALEM, ILL., AS IT APPEARS TODAY. THE ORIGINAL BUILDING WAS THE FIRST CABIN ERECTED ON THE VILLAGE SITE AND THE LAST TO DISAPPEAR. IT WAS IN IT THAT LINCOLN COURTED ANN RUTLEDGE.

bought the land and presented it in trust to the Chautauqua association, which held the property until 1918 when, with the consent of Mr. Hearst, the land was transferred to the state of Illinois.

In the intervening years, a great deal of study was made of the early settlement by the Old Salem Lincoln league, and, with the increased interest shown by outstate visitors, a petition was presented to the general assembly of the state for funds to be used in the improvement of the property. In 1931, an appropriation of \$50,000 was passed for permanent improvements for the village and the restoration was rapidly accomplished.

## Store Stocked as in 1830s.

The Lincoln-Berry store was the first building to be reconstructed. It was the first erected in 1830 by George Warburton. Lincoln, and William F. Berry moved into the store in 1833, the latter operating

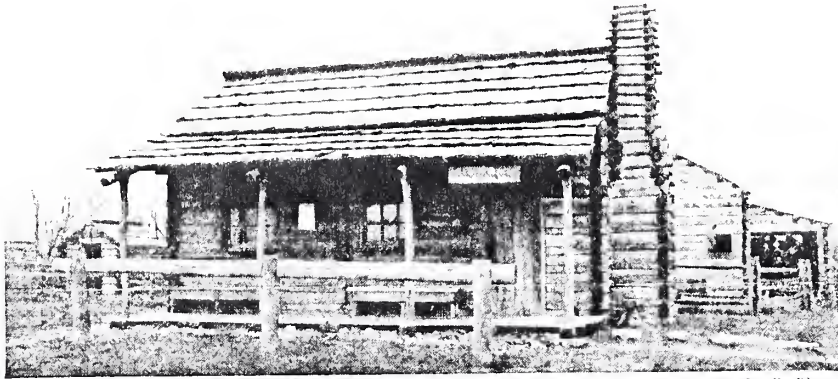
there as a clerk before his employment at the Berry-Lincoln store. Lincoln slept in the rear room of the Offut store and helped his employer with his grist mill. The store operated for eight months only, however, when the owner fled the country, leaving behind him serious debts which remained unaccounted for. The ultimate fate of the building itself is unknown.

It is supposed that it was abandoned and gradually fell to the ground.

## Doctor's Office Well Equipped.

The Henry Onstot cooper shop, the only original building in the park, was built about 1834. It was taken to Petersburg, Ill., in 1840 and remained there until 1920, when it was restored to its original site at New Salem. Except for the improvements to the frame structure that were necessary to hold it together, the building remains as it was originally built.

One of the most interesting build-

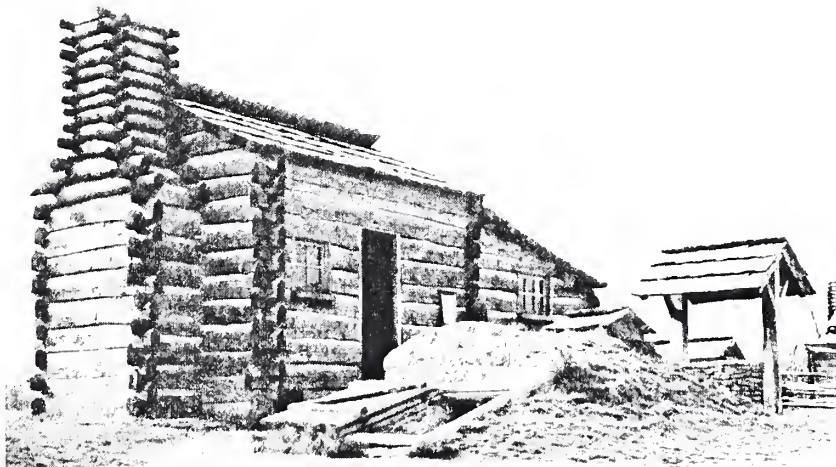


Paul's Photos

### Following Lincoln's Footsteps at New Salem

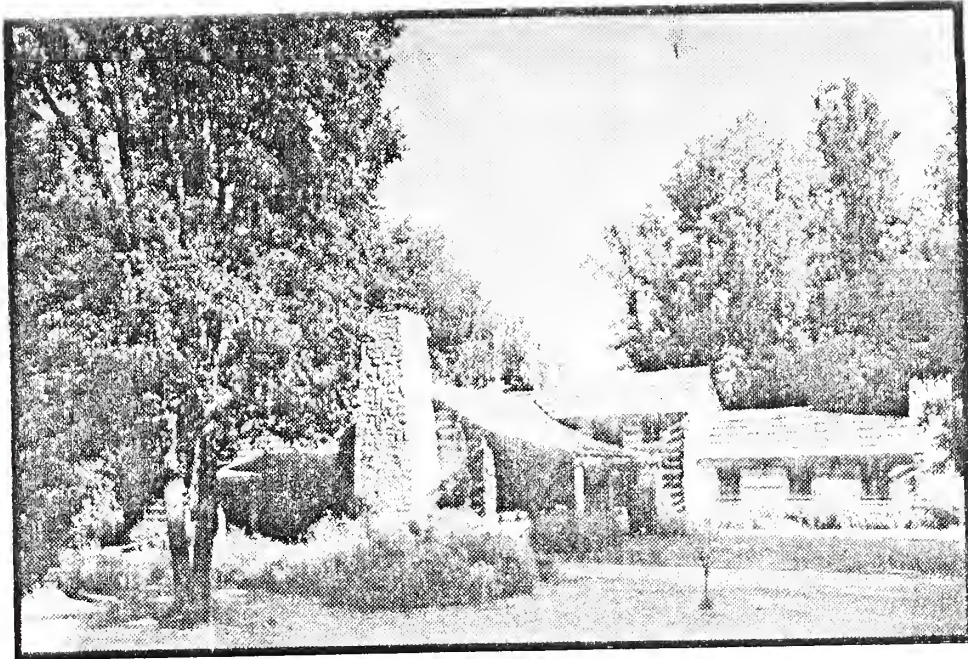
*The surroundings of Lincoln at New Salem are preserved in the New Salem State Park in Illinois. Above is shown the Hill-McNeill store and the post office which stood across the street from the home of Ann Rutledge. Lincoln's love for Ann has become one of America's most beautiful and poignant stories.*

*In the early days at New Salem the substantial fireplace and chimney at one end of the house were the predominant features of each dwelling, for around the hearthside centered the family life. This photograph shows well the typical method of construction in the home of Isaac Gulliver, a warm friend of Lincoln's.*





# TRIBUNE TRAVEL



## WHEN BUILDINGS WERE MADE OF HEWN LOGS

Wagon Wheel inn, a restaurant at the entrance to Illinois' New Salem State park, helps preserve the atmosphere of the rebuilt village where Abraham Lincoln once lived.

## Lincoln's Spirit Is Kept Alive in Illinois Shrines

By Frederic Babcock.

Surveyors say that Illinois is one of the three flattest states in the union. Travelers agree that it has little of the scenic lure of Michigan and Wisconsin. But, in one particular, it has the edge on every other state in the middle west—or in the whole country, for that matter. Here, as has often been pointed out, Lincoln's spirit lives eternally.

Abraham Lincoln spent nearly all his life in Illinois. The state exercised its influence upon him, just as he exercised his influence upon the state. If Illinois had nothing else to boast of, it could still point to that fact and be proud of it.

Furthermore, the state is full of shrines that are living memorials to its greatest son. They stand as an everlasting tribute to this man of the people. Nowhere else is there such a collection of Lincolniana.

Weeks or even months could be spent in visiting and studying these shrines. But, if the tourist is limited in time, he can see the principal ones in four or five days. If he's in a real hurry, he can make the trip over the week-end and still have time to stop at three or four state parks en route.

Our journey was one of those Friday-to-Monday affairs in which you try to jam in as much scenery and history as possible and still get back to your desk in time to greet the boss when he returns from his week-end in the country.

The jaunt led us thru the college towns of Urbana, Decatur, Normal, Bloomington, and De Kalb, the city of Springfield, and four state parks—Lincoln Log Cabin, New Salem, Starved Rock, and White Pines Forest. Such a journey covers only a small part of Illinois, but it's enough to give a good idea of what could be seen and done in the course of a two weeks' vacation.

Somewhat off the beaten path, the Lincoln Log Cabin State park is not as well known as are some of the other memorials to the Emancipator. It is of interest today chiefly because it marks the place where Lincoln's father, Thomas, spent the last years of his life. The log home he built there was dismantled and removed to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. After that, somehow, it got lost in the shuffle.

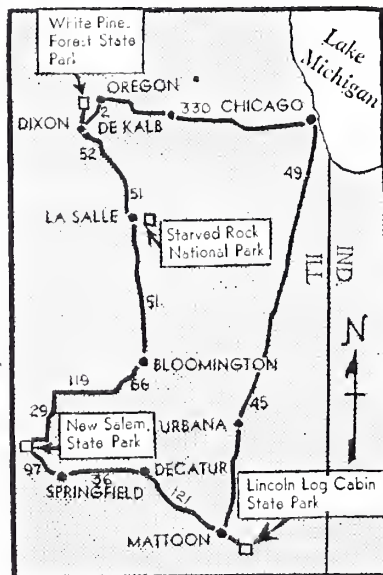
Now a replica, in hand hewn, squared logs, and surrounded by a split rail fence of the type that gave Abraham Lincoln his nickname of "The Rail Splitter," preserves the original idea. Authentic furnishings and utensils help complete the picture.

The 86 acre park is situated south of Charleston, in Cole county, and is reached by driving south from Chicago to Mattoon on U. S. 45, and thence southeast a few miles over a country road. It deserves more attention than it has been accorded.

Springfield is, of course, the capital of the realm of Lincolniana. There many thousands of Americans annually make the pilgrimage to Oak Ridge cemetery and stand in reverence before the tomb. The building housing the President's body is not as magnificent as the Lincoln memorial in Washington, D. C., but it has more for the sightseer and the student of history. No one can visit it, and view the nine Lincoln statues by Lorado Taft, Daniel Chester French, St. Gaudens, Gutzon Borglum, and others; read the Gettysburg address and the words, "now he belongs to ages," and note the pictures and relics of Mary Todd and Tad Lincoln, without being impressed by the dignity and stateliness in which Illinois has carried out one of its most important duties.

Not quite so impressive, but equally

## TRAVEL-LOG



The route of a week-end trip taken by The Tribune travel editor to some of the state parks and Lincoln shrines in Illinois. The tour is described in an adjoining column.

furniture of the pioneers have been put back in place. If ever a community earned the title, "a page out of the past," this is it.

• • •  
Wooden hinges, wooden latches, and the rustic shingles called shakes take the sightseer back to the days when such things were commonplace. There are articles for currying wool and making candles, and for shaping shakes and barrel staves. Twenty buildings form the group; more are being added. Nearby is a log restaurant called the Wagon Wheel.

To this tourist, somewhat overawed by the picture, only one thing was missing. We couldn't find the home of Lincoln. We put the foolish question to a guide, and were enlightened. "Lincoln had no home when he lived in New Salem," the guide told us. "He wasn't married at the time. He boarded around—at a dollar a week."

Of the other parks visited in the course of our tour, more next Sunday.

worthy of a visit, is the only home that Lincoln ever owned. A square, white affair, it stands at the corner of Eighth and Jackson streets in Springfield, with a small picket fence around it. It looks ordinary enough on the outside, but inside the visitor comes upon originals and replicas of horsehair sofas, walnut dressers with tops of marble, and all manner of gadgets and whatnots. Chairs and the bed occupied by the President have been preserved. On the wall hangs a frame containing a lease signed by Lincoln and calling for the payment of \$90 a year. The whole place breathes his personality.

• • •  
From the state capital it is only a 20 mile drive northwest to New Salem State park, and there—to this observer's way of thinking—is the real prize for the traveler. The state has rebuilt the entire village where Lincoln clerked in a store, chopped wood, enlisted in the Black Hawk war, served as postmaster, deputy surveyor, and legislator, studied law by the light of the cooper's shavings, and wooed Ann Rutledge.

This job was done only after years of research. The result is a group of hewn log buildings of rare historical value. The blacksmith shop, the doctor's office, the postoffice, the Lincoln-Berry store, the cooperage, and all the little homes are there, just as they were when Illinois, a hundred years ago, was considered 'way out west. The spinning wheels, looms, coffee grinders, cradles, and all the



## Mill Nearly Finished At New Salem Park

Restoration of the old grist and saw mill at New Salem state park is nearing completion and visitors at the state park soon will see the plant in operation, Director Walter A. Rosenfield of the state department of public works and buildings announced yesterday.

The mill is regarded as one of the most important items in the historical reproduction of the village where Lincoln once lived because it was the biggest industry of the community.

1601 12/14/41

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. President, this is a resolution submitted by the so-called Truman committee. They are asking for another \$100,000 to carry on the activities of the committee. I have conferred with the minority members of the Committee to Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate, and they are favorable to the adoption of the resolution. I have also conferred with the majority members. There does not seem to be any question about furnishing funds to the so-called Truman committee, and that committee is now asking for the amount carried in this resolution, and the Committee to Audit and Control, think they should have this sum in order to continue the magnificent work they have been doing throughout the country.

Mr. McNARY. Did the committee report unanimously after the matter had been fully considered?

Mr. LUCAS. I conferred by telephone with the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. TOBEY] and the Senator from Illinois [Mr. BROOKS], and I could not reach the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. NYEL]. The Senator from New Hampshire and the Senator from Illinois agree that the work should go on, and that the amount asked for should be appropriated. I have enough proxies in my pocket on the majority side to handle that situation.

Mr. BARKLEY. How much has the committee had up to date?

Mr. LUCAS. I am not sure how much has been appropriated for the investigation, and the Senator from Missouri [Mr. TRUMAN] is not present this morning.

Mr. HATCH. I think it is in the neighborhood of \$200,000.

Mr. LUCAS. I think that is correct. I believe originally the sum of \$15,000 or \$25,000 was appropriated, and later perhaps \$60,000, I think \$200,000 all told.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection to the consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the resolution (S. Res. 150) submitted by Mr. TRUMAN on May 4, 1943, was considered and agreed to.

#### MARBLE PEDESTAL FOR BUST OF FORMER VICE PRESIDENT GARNER

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. President, from the Committee to Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate I report favorably Senate Resolution 150, and ask unanimous consent for its present consideration.

There being no objection, the resolution (S. Res. 150) submitted by Mr. CONNALLY on May 14, 1943, was read, considered, and agreed to, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Architect of the Capitol hereby is authorized to procure a marble pedestal for the bust in the Senate wing of the Capitol of former Vice President John N. Garner, the expense thereof, not exceeding \$300, to be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers to be approved by the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Library.

VERNON L. TALBERTT

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. President, from the Committee to Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate, I

report back favorably Senate Resolution 144, which is a resolution recommended by our committee, authorizing and directing the Secretary of the Senate to pay from the contingent fund of the Senate to Vernon L. Talbertt, son of William B. Talbertt, late a laborer of the Senate, a sum equal to 1 year's compensation at the rate he was receiving at the time of his death.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the resolution (S. Res. 144) submitted by Mr. BARKLEY on May 3, 1943, was read, considered, and agreed to, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate hereby is authorized and directed to pay from the contingent fund of the Senate to Vernon L. Talbertt, son of William B. Talbertt, late a laborer of the Senate under supervision of the Sergeant at Arms, a sum equal to 1 year's compensation at the rate he was receiving by law at the time of his death, said sum to be considered inclusive of funeral expenses and all other allowances.

#### BILLS AND A JOINT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED

Bills and a joint resolution were introduced, read the first time, and, by unanimous consent, the second time, and referred as follows:

By Mr. HOLMAN:

S. 1118. A bill to amend the Nationality Act of 1940, providing for loss of nationality; to the Committee on Immigration.

By Mr. LUCAS:

S. 1119. A bill imposing additional duties upon the postmaster at Lincoln's New Salem, Ill.; to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

By Mr. REYNOLDS:

S. 1120. A bill to amend an act entitled "An act to provide for the posthumous appointment to commissioned or noncommissioned grade of certain enlisted men and the posthumous promotion of certain commissioned officers and enlisted men," approved July 28, 1942; to the Committee on Military Affairs.

By Mr. BROOKS:

S. 1121. A bill to provide for the return of unabsorbed premiums for war damage insurance, to amend the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act, as amended, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

By Mr. ELLENDER (for the Special Committee to Study and Survey Problems of Small Business Enterprises):

S. 1122. A bill to provide for the distribution of motor-vehicle tires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

By Mr. WHEELER:

S. 1123. A bill authorizing the Secretary of War to furnish headstones to mark the honorary burial places of deceased members of the armed forces who are buried at sea, in foreign lands, or at unknown places; to the Committee on Military Affairs.

By Mr. BONE:

S. J. Res. 61 (by request): Joint resolution requesting the President to proclaim the third Sunday in June of each year as Father's Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### COMPARISON OF MEAT PRICES IN CANADA AND WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mr. SHIPSTEAD. Mr. President, I have in my hand a photostatic copy of an advertisement in the Montreal Daily Star of Thursday, May 13, 1943. I also

have a copy of the Washington Post of the same date. In these newspapers are given meat prices in Montreal, Canada, and Washington, D. C., on May 13, when the new "roll-back" prices were established by the Office of Price Administration.

On May 13, the Office of Price Administration brought out a new price schedule on meats in Washington, D. C. As advertised in the daily press, the new O. P. A. meat prices were "roll-back" prices.

On the same day, May 13, the daily press of Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto, Canada, published the grocery advertisements for meat prices in Canada.

A comparison of these prices shows that O. P. A. "roll-back" prices on meats in Washington, D. C., overtop meat prices at 12 leading retail grocery houses in Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto by from 30 percent to as high as 90 percent.

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. SHIPSTEAD. I yield.

Mr. DAVIS. Am I correct in understanding the Senator to say that meat prices are as much as 90 percent higher in Washington than they are in Canada?

Mr. SHIPSTEAD. Yes; according to the advertisement of the grocery stores in Montreal and the announcement in the Washington Post for the same date, giving the new prices under the schedule of the O. P. A.

The average increase of O. P. A. meat prices over and above Canada approximates 50 percent.

Take porterhouse and sirloin steak and roast. In Washington, D. C., the O. P. A. ceiling price for porterhouse and sirloin was jumped from the former price top of from 50 to 59 cents a pound to 66 cents for choice steak at grocery chain stores and 70 cents at smaller independent stores, the advertised "roll back" being an increase or "roll up" of from 10 to 15 cents a pound.

But the true roll back appears in Canada. Of eight leading grocery houses or chains in Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto, advertising on May 13 in the daily press, porterhouse and sirloin, the average porterhouse price was 39 cents, or approximately 30 cents a pound below the O. P. A. roll-back price in Washington.

Now comes the big story. A. & P. Food Stores, the leading chain retail grocery of Montreal, advertised porterhouse, boneless sirloin, and boneless round, both steak and roast, at 35 cents a pound—and I have a photostatic copy of their advertisement—on the same day that the Office of Price Administration in Washington set the top price for porterhouse in Washington at the so-called roll-back price of 66 cents a pound, or 90 percent above the Montreal price.

The O. P. A. roll-back swindle not only jumps Washington prices by something like 20 percent over the former retail price level, but it climbs Mount Ararat with meat prices one-half again higher than in the cities above our northern border.

I present and ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record a brief tabulation of O. P. A. meat prices effective in Washington, D. C., beginning May



# Village of New Salem Now Restored as in Day When Lincoln Called It Home

## State of Illinois Has Recreated Town in Pioneer Fashion

BY CARROL C. HALL

**H**AVE you ever heard of New Salem, Ill. — the village where Abraham Lincoln lived as a young man? It is the world's most unique historic shrine.

For the last 10 years the state of Illinois has been engaged in the great task of restoring this village just as it was back in the 1830s when young "Abe" made his home there. Today, one finds there a pioneer community of over a century ago.

Lincoln came to New Salem when he was 22 years old and lived there six years. It was there that he rose from clerk and day laborer to postmaster, surveyor, lawyer and member of the state legislature. When he left New Salem, for a career in Springfield and eventually to the presidency, he had found himself. Many historians feel that the years spent at New Salem were the most important in his life.

### Exact in Detail

This historic village has been restored in every minute detail. It is a lesson in history that the sightseer can never forget. The cabin homes, the store, the shops, the mills are all as they were when Lincoln walked along the main street of the village.

There one can see the restored Lincoln-Berry store, where Abraham Lincoln worked as a clerk. In the lean-to at the back of the store is the bed where the homeless Lincoln rested.

Across the street in the Rutledge tavern—the home of Anne Rutledge, Lincoln's New Salem sweetheart—this is the largest building in the village; three rooms downstairs and a loft above where the men boarders slept. During part of his stay in New Salem, Lincoln lived with the Rutledge family.

### Historic Homes

Down Main street we find the home of Dr. John Allen; the home of Martin Waddell, the hatter; of

NEW SALEM, ILL., WHERE ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPENT SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT YEARS OF HIS LIFE, CAN NOW BE SEEN AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS WHEN HE WAS A YOUNG MAN!



THE STATE OF ILLINOIS HAS RESTORED THE VILLAGE — JUST AS IT WAS BACK IN THE 1830S

ALL OF ABE'S HAUNTS HAVE BEEN RESTORED FOR THE PLEASURE OF VISITORS TODAY



Robert Johnson, the wheelwright; and way at the end of the street is the shop of Henry Onstot, the New Salem cooper. It was by the light of the fire in the cooper's shop that Lincoln studied law.

Nearby is the double cabin of Jack Kelso and Joshua Miller, brothers-in-law. Kelso was the hunter and fisher of the community. He knew the best spots for game and was an excellent finder of good fishing holes. It was Jack Kelso who introduced "Abe" to the classics of literature. Miller was the village blacksmith, an industrious and hard working man.

### Schoolhouse, Too

Across the branch is Mentor Graham's schoolhouse. Lincoln never went to school there, but Mentor Graham gave of his time and talent to help the ambitious young Lincoln study English grammar and surveying.

A trip through the village reveals that each of the buildings has been furnished with furniture and other fixtures that are genuine antiques of that historical period. They were all given by people interested in the restoration of the village!

The village industries are all set, ready to run—it seems that time has been made to stand still, when they are viewed. There is the saw and grist mill, around which the village grew. It stands down on the banks of the famous Sangamon river, 100 feet below the village on the beautiful bluff above.

to play marbles with the younger "boys and girls" of the village. Tradition tells us that he was a crack shot with a "tawl"

Over under the porch on Samuel Hill's store are a group of men gathered. They are telling stories, jokes. In their midst is the odd appearing young man, they want to hear what he has to say.

Sometimes in the near futures, when travel restrictions are lifted and vacation trips can be planned again, you must place New Salem on your "see" list. To miss visiting this historic shrine is to miss one of the most outstanding thrills of a lifetime.

There is Hill's carding mill and wool house. It was run by a pair of oxen treading on an inclined, round wooden platform. Each of the village shops has been restored. In Alex Ferguson's cabin can be found the tools of the shoemaker.

### Visit Would Be Interesting

In imagination, one can see the long, lanky Lincoln working or studying about the village. Or, see him joining in the fun—the wrestling matches, the foot races. Perhaps he has stopped for a moment while on his way to the postoffice

# New Salem, Ill. Is Restored As In Lincoln's Day

BY CARROL C. HALL

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# LINCOLN'S YOUTH

## Outdoor Drama Recounts New Salem Days

By **BROOKS ATKINSON**

NEW SALEM, ILL.

**N**ONE of the outdoor historical dramas I have seen has been more absorbing than Kermit Hunter's Lincoln play, "Forever This Land," acted, incidentally, on land that Lincoln trod 120 years ago. Like the outdoor plays Paul Green has been writing for the last twelve years, it is put together according to a working formula—narration, dramatization of historical episodes, choral singing and dancing. Instead of leaning toward pageantry, however, as its predecessors do, it leans toward drama. There is considerable dramatic tension in the story of New Salem, and there are at least implications of romance. As drama, "Forever This Land" is better organized than those that have preceded it, and the characters are better developed.

Since all these outdoor plays about history have been written and staged by people of faith, intelligence and probity, audiences instinctively have confidence in them and carry away from them impressions and information that are exhilarating. The loose form is one that a Broadway theatregoer is not likely to understand on short acquaintance, and the comments that follow may not be wholly pertinent. Samuel Selden, supervising director of most of these plays done in the East, knows the audiences and the outdoor techniques better than anyone on Broadway does.

### Further Possibilities

Although I have enjoyed and respected the four I have seen, I suspect that the form in which they are written has not been wholly mastered and the possibilities have not been exhausted yet. Even "Forever This Land," about the best of the lot, is not so tightly put together as the first-rate musical dramas of the professional stage, and it does not transmute all its historical material into art. Especially in the early scenes it needs more drive, passion and variety—like Shakespeare's historical dramas that are being now produced in sequence at Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio. There is plenty of hack work in Shakespeare's panorama of English history, but he drew his characters

like a creative artist with humor, gusto and insight, and his literary style was rich and vibrant.

"Forever This Land" was commissioned by the New Salem Lincoln League and, in the circumstances, Mr. Hunter is naturally inhibited as an artist. Fundamentally, he has to conform to the known facts of Lincoln's six years in New Salem from 1831 to 1837. Since knowledge of Lincoln's history is exact and widespread in the Springfield area of Illinois, and since many people cherish particular parts of the Lincoln traditions, Mr. Hunter has had to satisfy a critical audience of sponsors. He cannot take off on his own like a free artist. For instance, he has to make his way as artfully as he can between those who believe that Ann Rutledge was the one great love of Lincoln's life and those who regard the story as a baseless, sentimental tradition.

In view of these limitations, Mr. Hunter has acquitted himself admirably and succeeded in writing an interesting, informative and, toward the end, moving chronicle play. Of course, the setting in New Salem where Lincoln lived stimulates a playgoer's imagination remarkably. During the past twenty years the Lincoln League has been reconstructing New Salem as it was when Lincoln lived there. Thanks to the exhaustive and meticulous scholarship of the region, a visitor can be certain that the reconstruction is generally exact; and that when he strolls among the oaks, elms and cottonwoods he is seeing a log-house village substantially like the one Lincoln knew between the ages of 22 and 28.

### Strong Influence

"Forever This Land" is written on the assumption that New Salem had a permanent influence on the formation of Lincoln's character. He came there a raw, uneducated youth without any sense of direction. He left with a smattering of education that he had acquired by himself, with definite political ambitions and with a knowledge of people that shaped his point of view for the rest of his life. "Lincoln did not dominate the place," says Benjamin P. Thomas in "Lincoln's New Salem," "but was both in and of it; and while he influenced its life, more important was the mark it left on him."

That is the theme of Mr. Hunter's homespun drama. Instead of writing an ode to the great national martyr, he has written a chronicle of the rise and fall of New Salem. The young, rustic Lincoln is a minor character at first, for the first part of the play is basically the story of how John Rutledge builds a new village with vigor and fanaticism. But after the Black Hawk war and Lincoln's forthright campaign for the state Legislature, he becomes the central figure of the play; and in the last few scenes his personality is

pretty well resolved—a man of modest though impregnable character and, at the end, already a man of sorrows as the result of Ann Rutledge's death.

The part of Lincoln is played by Harlington Wood Jr., a young lawyer of Springfield, who is regarded by many authorities in the neighborhood as the counterpart of the young Lincoln in height, weight, looks and lanky personality. Although Mr. Wood is not a professional actor, he gives a lucid and unaffected performance that avoids any suggestion of the kind of humdrum that might easily creep into it and that contributes a lot to the seriousness, high purpose and sincerity of the work as a whole. In general, "Forever This Land" is acted with spirit and taste. Most of the principal actors come from college and university drama schools in the Middle West.

### Inspired Leader

To visit the reconstructed village of New Salem and to see the play is to renew an old sense of wonder about the genius of Lincoln. From 1861 to 1865 he was the leader of the nation. His patience, faith, vision and humility as well as his practical knowledge of state affairs are matters of exact record, either in his own words or in history. He was an inspired man as head of the state.

But he was the most unlikely sort of pioneer clod-hopper when he arrived in New Salem off the river; and he was only a backwoods politician when he left. His experiences in New Salem do not indicate much sense of decision or judgment. His schemes for making money—his village deals—were not only disastrous, but foolish, irresponsible, opportunistic and unimaginative.

Whence came the nobility that carried the nation through its most agonizing crisis? In view of what we know now, we can see a promise of it in the honesty, strength and humanity of his neighborhood relations. Under the rawness of that pioneer personality, his character was beginning to form. But that is wisdom after the event. No one in New Salem could have understood then the full dimensions of his potential greatness; and even in Springfield during the ensuing years it must have been difficult to realize that this humdrum lawyer and political jobber was a man of the ages.

Mr. Hunter's conscientious, informed and well-written drama does not pretend to explain this most sacred of the American mysteries. But the rude, homely facts are there in the absorbing context of the New Salem village. And in view of what we know about Lincoln now, all of them are stirring and some of them are moving. "Forever This Land" is the most living of the many offerings laid on the shrine to Lincoln in New Salem. Everyone who loves America will value it.



# Lincoln's Woods

By VIRGINIA S. EIFERT

*Photographs by the Author*

**T**HEY were not really Lincoln's woods—not his by right of deed and ownership—but his because he lived in a clearing above the woods, and knew them from hill to hill and from valley to valley. They lay all about the short-lived pioneer settlement of New Salem, Illinois, which was built in 1830 above the winding Sangamon River. And these woods—Abraham Lincoln's woods—today are little changed around the restored village.

When Abraham Lincoln's destiny brought him to New Salem, he walked these woodland trails. He knew the hill woods in spring when the wild blue phlox was blooming; knew the white-armed sycamores along the river when summer was at its peak and the voices of the redstarts were everywhere; knew the blaze of sugar maples and the flutter of lilac asters when autumn visited the land; knew the broad, snowy space of winter when the river was frozen and wolves howled on the prairie hills at night. Lincoln knew all of these.

**Spring along the Sangamon brings robin snows that crust the trees with crystal, melting by noon in the morning sun. Such late snows Lincoln knew at New Salem, where has been recreated the settlement of his younger days, including the schoolhouse, as seen from the path that led from the stream.**

Today the winter's landscape easily takes one back to a biting February day in the 1830's—a grim, cold, stark, gray day with a lowering sky, which, if all the signs told truly, would let down snow before another day was past. The great silence of the Illinois winter was all about—a voiceless silence; bare trees still and aloof;

a marsh hawk, gray as a gull, swooping, dipping, sailing, quartering off the bottomlands. It is a timeless scene—winter, the river, the hawk. On such a day, with his shabby coat flapping and his head tied in a shawl, young Abe Lincoln might have walked the path down the New Salem hill to the rutted road to Springfield, twenty miles across the windy prairie. In sheltered hollows in the woods were titmice and chickadees that flitted and talked among the oaks; cardinals flashed carmine as they flew across the frozen creek. Crows jeered from the oak-tips; bob-whites flew up with a whirl of wings from the prairie weeds as the man strode past.

It may have been past sundown the next day before he returned to the village on the hill. The early winter dusk drew a thin line of lemon color behind the trees to the west, and the great horned owls were calling hungrily from the woods. That night a light snow fell to cover the old, and next morning there were wolf tracks alarmingly close to the cabins and sheep pens on the hill.

New Salem in the prairie wilderness came into existence shortly after the Rutledge-Cameron grist mill began operation on the Sangamon. People from scat-





tered cabins located many miles away on the buffalo trails and rutted wagon tracks that marked the prairie came to the new mill to have their corn ground into meal, some from so far away that they needed a place in which to spend the night before starting back. There was no place to stay, and nothing to do but camp in the woods, until enterprising James Rutledge from Kentucky, one of the mill-owners, felled a few oaks on the hilltop above the mill and built a log tavern in the scanty clearing. Houses followed, log houses set along a rambling path that bisected the hilltop from east to west. Gradually the trees fell back until the clearing was almost bare, except for stumps that stood everywhere and were a menace to any man who walked there in the dark. But the trees—the white and red oaks, the honey locusts, the sugar maples, the white ashes—gathered closely on all sides of the village, as if waiting to come back to the spot from which they had been ousted.

In the hollow to the south there was a pleasant, tumbling stream, which, unlike the muddy streams of middle Illinois, was rocky and clear, and there were silvery minnows in it. Among the oaks on the hill above this stream was Mentor Graham's austere log schoolhouse, with its small cramped windows that let in scarcely any sunlight. Inside were hard benches, a fireplace, and the schoolmaster's desk.

All around the school, and in the woods along the schoolchildren's path, there were fox squirrels, chipmunks, cottontails, bluejays, woodpeckers, and towhees—creatures that, to Lincoln, were well loved and familiar. Ever since his boyhood in Kentucky, the wildlings and the trees had been his friends. In the New Salem woods they offered a companionship that must have been welcome to the man who, all his life, was a lonely person.

It is probable that he knew few of the birds by name. Few folks did in those days. There were no bird books in the village, nothing for a man to use if he had the unusual wish to know the name of a bird that whistled at him on a winter's morning. Alexander Wilson's tome had not yet penetrated the Illinois wilderness; Audubon's bird paintings, which were startling London, would have been far too costly

a luxury for this plain, pioneering community. There was nothing to encourage anyone to identify birds, even if he had wished to do so.

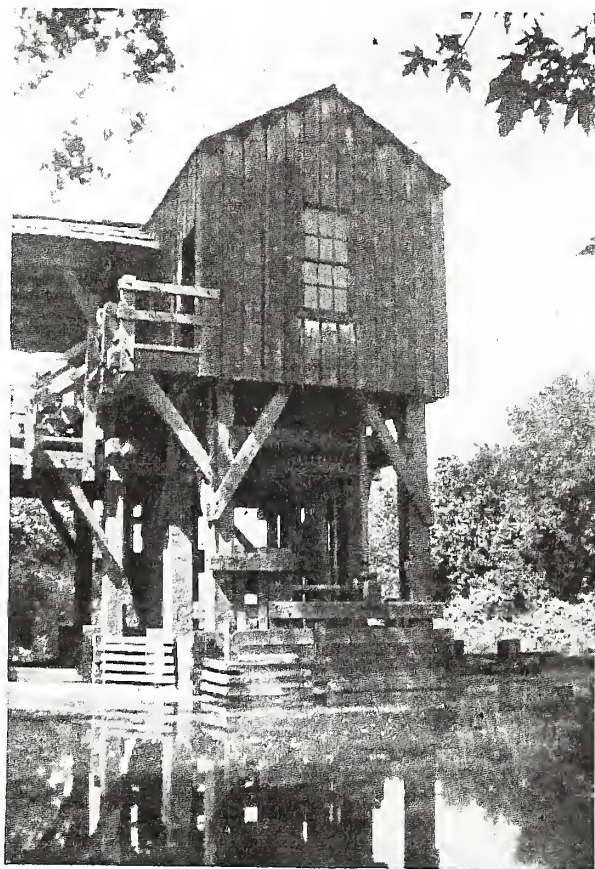
Some men, however, knew the trees because that knowledge was considered practical. One had to know a sassafras tree in order to dig the orange roots for tea to "thin the blood" in spring; to know the red-haws and wild crabs because the housewives made preserves and jellies from the fruits; one had to know the difference between an elm and a maple when cutting wood, because elm wood shot sparks from the fire-place and maple did not. Abraham Lincoln knew his

trees. According to the comment of his son, many years later in Washington, the sugar maple, perhaps first learned in the New Salem woods, was Lincoln's favorite.

After a few years, Lincoln left New Salem and went to Springfield to practice law. In 1839 New Salem died. Less than a decade after it had begun, with great hope of becoming a town, the settlement disintegrated into the prairie soil. It was as if the spirit of this man, who stayed here a little while and then went on to carry out his destiny, was all that held the village together. The people scattered to nearby communities that were more easily accessible than hill-top New Salem. The site grew up in weeds and the woods were known only to creatures that lived there; to foxes, owls, and whip-poor-wills.

Many years later there were attempts to restore this historic spot, but the results were crude and unconvincing

until the Illinois Department of Public Works and Buildings, with the assistance of the National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps, worked with care and deep thought to produce a restoration of the village. Under their skillful hands, New Salem lives again. Here not only are the authentically built log houses on their exact sites, but each is completely furnished with original materials owned by descendants of the New Salem people. The blacksmith's shop is dusty and littered with iron shavings; the carding mill, with its elaborate carding machine brought from the East, is the most imposing building in the village; the cooper's shop has its half-finished barrels standing about; the big iron kettle that was part of the working equipment of Martin Waddell, the hat-



**The Rutledge-Cameron grist mill once more is ready to grind corn. It is part of the restored village of New Salem in central Illinois.**



ter, stands in the shade of a climbing river-rose that scrambles over a lean-to porch. The homes of Dr. Regnier and Dr. Allen, the two doctors who practiced in the village, are outfitted with the bottles and tools and nostrums popular in those days, and the splint-fenced gardens back of these cabins contain the aromatic herbs that provided medicines for the people of the community—horehound, catnip, fennel, dill, digitalis, cimicifuga, sage. Garden patches are planted each springtime with seeds of the sort that were grown here more than a hundred years ago, usually cabbage and beans, turnips and corn, with often a patch of tobacco, a bit of cotton, some hemp, and broom corn, because most of the New Salem people came from Kentucky and were accustomed to these things. Chickens walk about in the grass and lay their eggs in the barns; barn swallows build their mud nests in the lofts, and wrens nest in gourds that were grown in the village. A postmaster takes in and sends out mail from the restored post office where Lincoln once clerked. The general stores are stocked with bolts of calico; with glass jars of rock candy and striped peppermints; with churns and brooms and boots.

Stumps have been brought in and planted to give an illusion of a recent clearing. Down beside the river, where the prothonotary warblers in summer flash their orange-peel brilliance, and where, along the mill-pond at dawn, a great blue heron stalks his prey, the Rutledge-Cameron grist mill once more is ready to grind corn. Truly, New Salem seems again to live.

All these things are very good. In its sincerity, authenticity, and workmanship, the restoration of New Salem is comparable to that of Williamsburg. But the village obviously is only a restoration. It is not actually the real thing.

But the woods are real. They are still Abraham Lincoln's woods, and his presence lingers there. Some of the original trees still stand, for some of the huge white oaks compare in size with stumps in the neighborhood that measure more than two hundred rings. Lincoln's woods still lie on either side of the village and hem the winding Sangamon. It is they, more than the faithful restoration of a pioneer settlement, that preserve and make real the story of a prairie man.

There, south of the village, are footpaths that very likely follow the original trails made long ago by deer and wolves, by Indians and pioneers. One of the paths leads down the hill from the back of the village to the rocky stream that still makes a pleasant noise over its stones. There still are fox tracks along the soft, muddy banks where doubtless there always have been tracks of hunting foxes.

Springtime comes to these New Salem woods as it comes all about to middle Illinois, as it came more than a hundred years ago to Lincoln's woods. Spring in this country is a hesitant stepping forward out of

snow and cold, perhaps only enough to liberate a mourning cloak butterfly that wintered behind a shred of hickory bark. It may include a sudden stepping back to freezing temperatures, which, nonetheless, do not wholly discourage the early bluebirds along the river, or harm the burst of polleny blossoms on the soft maples.

There may be set-backs and periods of unseasonable warmth; there may be rains and robin snows, but spring in Illinois is on its way. By late February and early March there are signs of new life all along the trail from the village to the schoolhouse—catkins on the hazel bushes, a phoebe along the creek, ruby spore-capsules on the emerald banks of Catherinea moss. Suddenly there are the first spring beauties, which each year come somehow as a total surprise. Searlet cups hide their color among the damp old oak leaves; towhees and fox spar-

rows, singing, join the cardinals, titmice, and bluejays that stayed in sheltered places all winter. And on a bright spring day the jays, in the exuberance of their springtime mood, stir up the great horned owl that sleeps all day in a red oak back of the schoolhouse.

One day the first myrtle warblers are back. Morel mushrooms leap up in the rich woods soil; the fox tracks are more abundant than ever along the creek where the toads trill at night; and the woods are full of the lavender bloom of wild blue phlox, the delicate flutter of cleft phlox near the old quarry, the maroon of red trilliums, the unfolding bronzy umbrellas of the mayapples. New leaves are on the oaks, and redbuds are in bloom. A water thrush, teetering



**At the restored village wrens still nest in gourds, which are grown in the local gardens, and dried and hung for the benefit of the bird inhabitants.**



on a wet log beside the stream, sings an ecstatic burst of song; the cardinals busily gather long shreds of grapevine bark to line their nests.

One day the Kentucky warbler, a glittering morsel of bright gold, green-brown, and black, peers from the Virginia creeper vines near the school, sings a ventriloquial song that belongs to these woods, and builds a neat nest among the bedstraw beside the path. From this leafy trail a whip-poor-will in moth-like flight springs up from its two mottled eggs laid on the oak leaves, and flutters away among the trees.

Everywhere in these woods the ghost of Lincoln's presence and his affection for wild things is all about. And it is no more vivid, perhaps, than at dusk on a summer evening when the calling of the whip-poor-wills is all about. These voices of the wild are everywhere—in the locusts on the hill, on cabin roofs, among the oaks, calling until the dusk is clamorous with their voices. The sound of the whip-poor-wills rises, falls, pulsates, fills Lincoln's woods with a wild, timeless sound that has no beginning and no ending, so long as these woods remain.



## Night Work

By JOHN GALLINARI WHIDDING

Behold this silken seine  
Pegged wide and tight  
To catch the little rain  
Of melting night

For bait in turn to snare  
Such morning-beams  
As now lie captive there  
Like broken dreams....

For this brief golden catch  
The spider sets  
By dark in hedge and thatch  
His sturdy nets,

While on the worn cement  
The moonstruck snail  
Parades with bold intent,  
In shining mail—

His purpose less obscure  
Than we may think  
Who find his signature  
In silver ink!



## Winged Colors

By PAUL CHURCHER

**M**AN, in his brief and hectic history, has produced some remarkable daubers in paints and pigments. Yet none of them have ever approached Nature's casual achievements of living coloration. Birds alone are flashing proof of this, and the varied brilliance of their tones and hues of beauty is constantly reflected in the names that many of them bear.

Here, incorrectly matched in a double list, are the names of twenty well-known birds of North America, birds whose names contain references to twenty different shades or colors. Can you unscramble and rearrange them, correctly paired?

Count five for each and see how close you can come to a perfect score. See page 106 for answers to this avian quiz.

1. Bronzed
2. Snowy
3. Indigo
4. Golden
5. Ruddy
6. Sooty
7. Rusty
8. Scarlet
9. Brown
10. Yellow

- a. Blackbird
- b. Rail
- c. Junco
- d. Flycatcher
- e. Spoonbill
- f. Pelican
- g. Phalarope
- h. Bunting
- i. Warbler
- j. Duck

11. White
12. Blue
13. Green
14. Roseate
15. Slate-colored
16. Purple
17. Olive-sided
18. Cerulean
19. Cinnamon
20. Red

- k. Finch
- l. Tanager
- m. Teal
- n. Owl
- o. Jay
- p. Creeper
- q. Plover
- r. Grackle
- s. Heron
- t. Shearwater



PHOTOGRAPH BY N. E. NILSSON

Carefully restored, externally and internally, the cabins in New Salem State Park, near Petersburg, Illinois, recreate the village of New Salem as Abraham Lincoln knew it during the brief period of its existence.



*The*  
LIVING MUSEUM

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Devoted to a better understanding of the Illinois State  
Museum and the life about us.

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*LINCOLN'S NEW SALEM IN WINTER*

# New Salem stands as Lincoln shrine

By Milburn P. Akers

Illinois, one of three states in which Abraham Lincoln spent the 51 years preceding his presidency, has many shrines to the Emancipator, the 140th anniversary of whose birth will be observed throughout the nation Sunday.

But none is more interesting than New Salem, the reconstructed frontier village some 20 miles northwest of Springfield where Lincoln kept store, served as postmaster, studied law, courted Ann Rutledge and entered politics. Also, it was from New Salem that he marched away to the Black Hawk war in 1832.

## Frontier village

New Salem, standing on a broad bluff overlooking the Sangamon river, appears, in the retrospect of history, to have had but one reason for existence: a place especially created for the moulding and development of the young man who wandered into its

midst shortly after the westward surge had brought his family into the state from southern Indiana.

New Salem, once a thriving frontier village, was laid out in 1828, and Lincoln arrived there in July, 1831.

Benjamin P. Thomas, a Lincoln biographer, has this to say of Lincoln's New Salem days:

"In his six years at New Salem Lincoln had gone far. Coming to the village like 'a piece of floating driftwood,' as he said, he had worked his way up to a position of leadership not only in New Salem but in the state as well.

"The New Salem environment, typical of that of the

West in general, offered opportunities which Lincoln would not have had in older communities. Humble origin and lack of schooling were no handicaps, for they were common deficiencies."

## Lincoln leaves

New Salem apparently had served its purpose. For, soon after Lincoln, who had lived there six years, departed for Springfield, the village went into decline. Soon it was uninhabited.

Today, New Salem--now a state park--appears as it did in Lincoln's day. Its original cabins have been restored and furnished.

One can return to the at-

mosphere of a frontier village --the frontier village in which Abraham Lincoln worked and studied, lived and loved, as he prepared himself for a career in law and politics which led him to the presidency and martyrdom.

New Salem is, of course, only one of many Illinois shrines to the Emancipator. His Springfield home, at Eighth and Jackson streets, is open to the public. And more than a quarter of a million people have visited his tomb in Springfield's Oak Ridge cemetery in a 12-month period. And the Sangamon County courthouse -- once the Illinois State House -- holds many memories of him, too.





Tribune photos: By Fred Giese

The Rutledge tavern and home of the James Rutledge family in New Salem. The tavern (lodging house) was a favorite overnight stopping place for travelers of that period.

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## RAILS TO FENCE THE PRAIRIES

There were no visible boundaries in those days, nothing but the unending sweep of country, of forest and prairie. But in the 1830's when people from Kentucky were building a village which they called New Salem,\* where Lincoln lived for a time, they built rough fences to divide the prairie. It was not so much to fence things in—geese and hens and sheep and pigs—but to keep things out. In those days the wild deer were still frisky and livestock usually roamed at will.

The rail fences of the prairie marked a man's new estate. Within the fence which he himself had hewed with great labor in the forest he could feel a sense of security which might not be so easily defined if the cabin faced trackless prairie or lowering forest. A fence put meaning to the land: Here I stay, it said. This is home. And within the fence the youngest children could play while their mother worked, secure in her feeling that they were safe—safer anyway than if they were out roaming the dangerous land.

The rail fences of New Salem, the restored village which is now a state park twenty miles northwest of Springfield, are vivid re-

mindings of the stern and ungentle past. Many of them are authentic old rails that were picked up here and there in the region, remains of ancient fences that once had penned sheep or fenced a garden of a long forgotten pioneer cabin. Some of the others were carefully split by hand by the young men of the National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps. These rails may not be as old as the original rails but they have the same amount of labor put in them, the same timeless sweat of men swinging axe and adze, the ring of steel on tough wood and the rending sound of the split when at last the wood gave way.

The rails are stacked as stake-and-rider fences around most of the garden plots behind the cabins of New Salem. Two of the plots enclose restored herb gardens of Doctors Allen and Regnier; others enclose vegetable and cotton patches; several make enclosures for cows and sheep.

Up and down the village today the weathered grey rails, reminiscent of the Illinois Railsplitter himself who once lived there and who probably did his share of fence building, hold ridges of late winter snow.

\* New Salem State Park (P. O. Lincoln's New Salem) lies on State Routes 97 and 123, 23 miles north of Springfield and 3 south of Petersburg.



# New Salem Unfolds Lincoln History to Club Drivers

## Frontier Village Depicts Life of Youthful Leader

By JOHN JENKINS  
(Executive Editor)

Down on the flowering Sangamon, twenty miles northwest of Springfield and dominating the Lincoln Memorial Highway, the unique memorial of New Salem is again awaiting the influx of more than a quarter of a million motor visitors during the spring and summer seasons.

Faithfully reproduced from the frontier prairie village where Abraham Lincoln spent his formative years, experienced his tragic early romance and forged his future greatness, the colorful community is annually one of the most popular driving objectives for Chicago Motor Club members. It will again feature the summer night play, "Forever This Land" nightly except Mondays through July and August, according to John T. Kieran, its foremost biographer.

### Lands From River

Illinois was deep in July when the young, gangling Abe first saw the frontier village, Kieran reveals in a recent highway article. He was on a flatboat bound for New Orleans, but the clumsy craft grounded, and he walked ashore. He remained for six years, coming as a laborer and leaving as a lawyer in 1837.

"New Salem offered only the raw, hard life of the frontier, but in it was the seed of greatness. Abe failed as a storekeeper and as a political candidate. And he failed at gaining the greatest happiness he could ever know—marriage to Ann Rutledge, when death outmaneuvered him.

"But he succeeded in maintaining himself, in being a postmaster and a captain of militia. More important, he gained friends whose influence started him on his study of law and the classics.

"He worked first in the mill and store that was rented by Denton Offutt, but this venture failed for both. Then he and William F. Berry opened a store, but it failed also. To pay his debts he split rails and husked corn, did any sort of odd jobs, until he was appointed postmaster.



FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN FREEDOM stand out clearly in the springtime sun in these exact replicas of Lincoln's Illinois village. Above is the Trent brothers' barn and the type of rail fence wrought by the youthful rail splitter. Left is the ancient mill which dominated the community. Right, a nook in the second Berry-Lincoln store where Abe spent many hours in legal study.

### Years of Study

"During these six years, however, Lincoln's main job was to study. He walked many miles to borrow and return books, and it is said that in his store he spent most of his time lying on the counter, reading. In spite of this, he found time to become popular with every member of the town and surrounding country. He told a thousand stories and stopped almost as many fights by his humor and handling of the participants. His popularity came not a little from the fact that he could outwrestle, outrun, and outlift even these hardy frontiersmen.

"In all, there were thirteen cabins, six shops, and the Rutledge tavern at the height of the village's life, and it was populated by about one hundred people. It was laid out some two years before Abe came there and, strangely enough, it vanished shortly after he left for the legislature in Springfield, the state capital.

"But the legends and importance of Lincoln's life in New Salem kept its fame alive. Scholars and many others became interested in the place. In 1906, William Randolph Hearst purchased the town site. Eleven years later The Old Salem Lincoln League was formed. Its purpose was to gather diaries, maps and mementoes and relics of the town and to keep interest in it alive. A year later Mr. Hearst gave the site to the state of Illinois, and finally, in 1931, the exact restoration of the village began. The Berry-Lincoln store-cabin was the first to be completed.



# Lincoln Lives Again

By FRANK CIPRIANI

**D**OWN IN NEW SALEM STATE PARK, some 20 miles northwest of Springfield, Ill., Abraham Lincoln of Illinois lives again. He lives again, in spirit certainly, in the symphonic drama, "Forever This Land."

This beautiful drama is being presented nightly, except Mondays, thru Aug. 24, in the Kelso Hollow outdoor theater in the state park where a log cabin village has been constructed after the one in which Lincoln lived as a young man, and on the exact site.

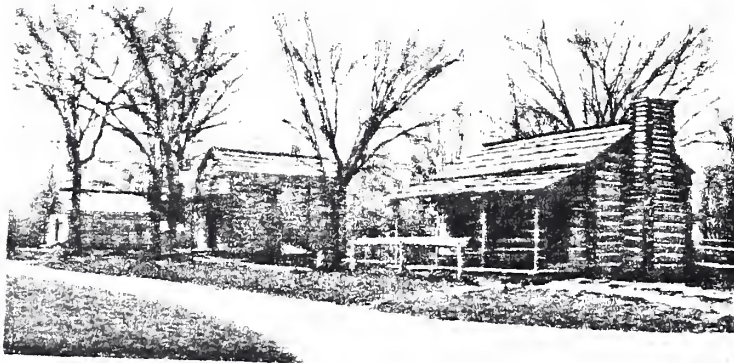
The story of the play depicts the frontier life of the early 1800s, the struggle for land, and the various forces that played upon Lincoln during his six years in New Salem. The actions and the moods have all been well blended by Kermit Hunter, author of the play.

The setting of the play, on the very ground that Lincoln must have walked, enhances the mood of the play, and the illusion of reality is readily caught by audiences.

The leading role is played by Harlington Wood Jr., 32, a Springfield lawyer. He is tall, and lanky, and he plays the part of young Lincoln with emotional depth. He has extra reason for this; he is the only living grand nephew of W. H. Herndon, Lincoln's law partner in Springfield.

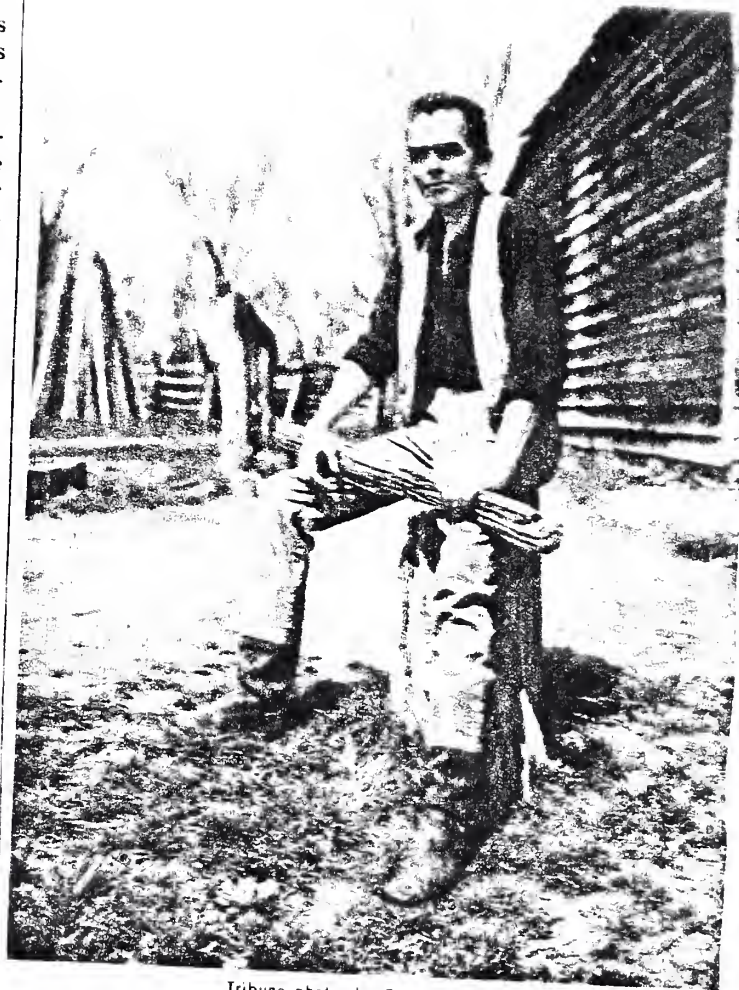
This is the second season for "Forever This Land." It attracted more than 52,000 persons from the United States and foreign countries last year. The play is sponsored by the New Salem Lincoln league, a non-profit organization of Petersburg (near New Salem) which initiated the rebuilding of the New Salem village.

The theater seats 3,000. The park is on Highway 97.



Main street of reconstructed New Salem, Ill.

July 27, 1952



Tribune photos by George Quinn  
Harlington Wood Jr., who portrays Lincoln in "Forever This Land."



# New Salem Revisited

2/13/54

*The far-reaching effects of Abraham Lincoln's concept of democracy and the degree to which he made that concept tangible are traced to the early training the 16th President of the United States gave himself in an Illinois cross-roads village where he laid down his ax and took up his books.*

By James K. Sparkman

Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

New Salem, Ill.

**S**TERNLY FACING VISITORS as they enter the Illinois Centennial Building in Springfield is a hard-eyed, squat wooden statue of a man recognizable as Abraham Lincoln largely because of his tall, black stovepipe hat.

Below the figure a placard explains that the statue is one of four known Alaskan totem poles of Lincoln carved by the Raven people of Prince of Wales Island. These Eskimos, the explanation continues, were freed from enslavement by the Eagle people by the same emancipation measures that gave freedom to Negroes in bondage within the United States. In gratitude, the Raven people have elevated Abraham Lincoln to rank among their local totems.

To most Americans, unaware of these far-reaching effects of Lincoln-backed congressional acts and the subsequent constitutional amendment, this unusual figure raises a question:

Just how far-reaching have been the effects of Lincoln's life and work—his struggle not only to preserve the Union of states but to achieve as well for future generations a fuller picture of successful democracy?

Here in historic New Salem, 20 miles from Springfield, where Lincoln's home town from 1831 to 1837 is being carefully restored by the State of Illinois, the question becomes even more pertinent.

## From Farm Lad to Statesman

For here in New Salem—a mud crossroads community of a few hand-hewn houses, a blacksmith shop, a hatter's workshop, a wool carding "factory," and grist mill—a clearer meaning of the democratic potential somehow comes through, a perception of what can be made of outwardly humble beginnings.

Here a tall youth reached his majority as a simple farm boy, yet turned onto a new road of learning that eventually led him to the White House. Here, figuratively, Abraham Lincoln laid down his ax and picked up texts in geometry, drama, and law.

These outward mementos, preserving the atmosphere of another generation, raise the question which strikes at the root of the present differences between western liberal thinking and Soviet psychology: Is man solely a product of his environment, the sum of state-controllable forces? Or is there an inner man, whose dignity and identity must be respected by the state because God-formed and beyond the reach of state-dictated rules and theories?

Happily, central Illinois—"the Lincoln country"—is an excellent place to seek answers to those questions. For here Lincoln "is a living influence" in the words of Illinois Gov. William G. Stratton. More than a man who has passed on to a realm of books and darkening oil paintings, Lincoln here is more a neighbor who is temporarily away. Should a visitor forget this, 1954 automobile license plates remind him that Illinois is the "Land of Lincoln."

## Influence Widely Felt

Not all outward signs today can be said to point unequivocally to a rapidly growing interest in Lincoln the man. Nor can it be proved easily that to an ever-increasing measure his views are becoming American views—or world views. Yet Governor Stratton and many Lincoln scholars and Lincoln biographers are convinced that they are.

The spread of Lincoln's views are not usually events such as to evoke headlines. When Gen. Robert E. Lee's picture was restored to the walls of West Point alongside that of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, who could prove positively that Lincoln's "malice toward none . . . charity for all" brought it about? How much of today's vastly improved relations between North and South, Negro and white, rich and poor, should be attributable to the 16th President?

We cannot establish for certain that United States' charitable actions toward its former enemies after World War II stemmed partly from Lincoln's kindly view of the Confederate states.

But such a historian as Benjamin P. Thomas, author of the best-selling one-volume Lincoln biography, is quick to say there is much less likelihood that this would have been the nation's outlook had the Civil War President preached hate and venom.

And such a scholar as Allan Nevins, Pulitzer Prize winning professor of history at Columbia University, points to Lincoln as an influence when, at the turn of the century, South African leaders in the midst of civil conflict echoed pleas for charity toward countrymen on opposite sides.

## Public's Interest Grows

Visible signs point resolutely toward no decline in Lincoln interest. Guest books here bulge as this village reaches completion, authentic in detail down to period furnishings in each home and to wares on the narrow shelves of the Lincoln-Berry store.

Constantly steady streams of reverent men, women, and children visit Lincoln's tomb at Springfield, where sculpture depicts the President, standing figuratively upon the Constitution, surrounding himself with the four arms of military service to hold together the band of states.

More than 400,000 persons last year visited the oak-and-walnut Lincoln family home in Springfield where Lincoln the lawyer, the congressman, the adroit state politician lived until, with an affectionate farewell to friends in Illinois, he moved to Washington.

Unfortunately, the rising number of visitors alone does not give a true picture of public interest any more than does the number of Lincoln cities (23), Lincoln groceries, cleaners, and so forth. World War II curtailed the number of visitors; tourism in general has grown with the nation's population and with improvements in roads and motorcars more than with growth of interest in historic spots alone. Yet the fact remains that little interest was shown here in Lincoln between the Civil War and 1909, the centennial of his birth.

Other more solid bits of evidence show that public curiosity about Lincoln and his views has grown steadily and, recently, quite rapidly.

## Books Draw Eager Buyers

Sales of Lincoln books and Civil War books provide one index. More than a million volumes of the Carl Sandburg series on Lincoln reportedly have been sold since the first was published in 1926. No less than 14 Lincoln and Civil War books were published in 1952; more than 25,000 Lincoln and Civil War titles have been published through the years: Lincoln and California, Lincoln and Chicago—and Iowa—and the doctors—and the press—and bankruptcy law—in Congress, and so forth. For 20 years one Chicago bookstore has made a successful business of stocking nothing but Lincoln books and associated volumes.

Even a surer index of public interest is the sale of Lincoln letters, pictures, and other effects. Lincoln letters, obtainable 10 years ago for \$45 to \$100, today may bring \$2,000 at auctions—simply because of the demand. At a recent auction Harry E. Pratt, state historian, relates, a Lincolniana collection brought \$275,000; \$3,500 for a letter, \$800 for an autographed picture, and so on. Doubtless even higher prices might have resulted were it not for mutual agreements among the large national foundations, agreements that since one university needs a Lincoln letter the others will remain silent during bidding.

## Skilled Administrator

Yet no one seriously complains of this expense. The costs in large part reflect an understanding on the part of universities, state historians, state governments, boards of regents, and others that these historical documents have real value for citizens today. If not, few organizations would make the necessary funds available.

Governor Stratton's views are indicative of this reasoning: "Citizens today need to learn even more of Lincoln. They should learn more of Lincoln the skillful politician, the man who understood that compromise is necessary in a democracy—especially in legislation. . . . That



Herbert Georg Studio

The Henry Onstott cooperage and residence house is located at New Salem, Ill., where Onstott, who served as postmaster, and where he leaving to fight in the Black Hawk War in

compromise can be made without sacrifice of basic morals in order to reach part of a goal now."

It was, he said, in part the recollection of Lincoln as an administrator who was always available to the citizen that led Governor Stratton last year to establish his weekly "open house" sessions each Thursday. As the Governor talked, Lincoln looked at him from a desk bust and wall portrait. Significantly, it was a picture of Lincoln which the Governor last year presented to the young Japanese Crown Prince on the latter's visit to Illinois.

Outside the United States it is perhaps more difficult to assay the stature of Lincoln; statues of him may be found in several of the world's capitals. Biographies of him are available in several languages. Japanese children have been required to write essays on his life (as have pupils in Alabama). Japanese actors have presented a dark-eyed Lincoln successfully on their stages. Hamilton, Ontario, has held a yearly Lincoln dinner since 1936. Of 500 members of the now defunct Abraham Lincoln Association (prostrated by its efforts to publish Lincoln material), who are participating now in the Illinois Historical Society, a score or more reside outside the United States.

Why is there this warm feeling for one particular President when even the nation's founders hardly have gained such appeal?

## Symbol of Democracy

It stems from two factors, historian Thomas suggested, as he and the writer paused in front of the tiny Lincoln-Berry store and the Rutledge tavern:

"Abraham Lincoln was a farm boy with little formal education who won the friendship of his neighbors—right here in New Salem. With their aid, he climbed upward to the White House. He is remembered as showing the goal that any American can hope to achieve.

"More than that," Mr. Thomas continued, "Lincoln has become, in the eyes of this nation and the world, the symbol of American democracy. . . . He said himself, in effect, 'I never had a thought that did not stem from the Declaration of Independence.'

"He tried to bring about 'a new birth of freedom' for the world and for future generations."

Here in New Salem such words, keyed to visible history, have new significance for an atomic era distant only in time from Lincoln's world.

# New Salem Ghosts May Live Again

By Larry Kramp

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) —The ghosts of New Salem will have some life breathed into them if Richard Hagen can inject state officials with his enthusiasm. Hagen, historian for the State Parks

Division, would have guides costumed to represent the housewives and tradesmen who puttered around the village 130 years ago.

The village consists of replicas of 13 cabins and 10 tiny shops and industries as

they were when Abraham Lincoln lived there.

Hagen would take down the barriers that make tourists crane their necks to peek inside doorways at detailed period furnishings.

**One hitch** is the cost. Finding more money to enhance the village for tourist understanding and enjoyment is a big task.

In an interview, Hagen said he would like to see oxen treading the circular inclined wheel that powered the carding mill. It once combed the flax that grew in the village fields.

He'd have little barrels made in Henry Onstot's cooperage before watching tourists. They stream through the village as they do through no other Illinois Lincoln memorial, at the rate of better than a million a year.

**Such products** might be the solution to the problem of financial support of Hagen's vision. Although the 1918 grant of the property to Illinois through a gift of

William Randolph Hearst specified that admission must be free, there would be no prohibition to sales of such souvenir products made on the scene by state agents.

Hagen would let tourists see iron work turned out in Joshua Miller's blacksmith shop.

**Cornmeal** would be ground again in the saw and grist mill by the old dam. It was on the dam that fortune stranded Lincoln's flatboat and introduced him to the town that became his home for six years starting in 1831.

As they did in Lincoln's day, housewives would spin and weave, tend their vegetable and herb gardens, cook and bake, make soap and candles and distill spirits.

An outdoor candle dipping display, conducted recently at the village in a workshop on historic preservation, drew a continuous audience of tourists. Some wanted to pay for a chance to try the craft.



# THE ROTARIAN

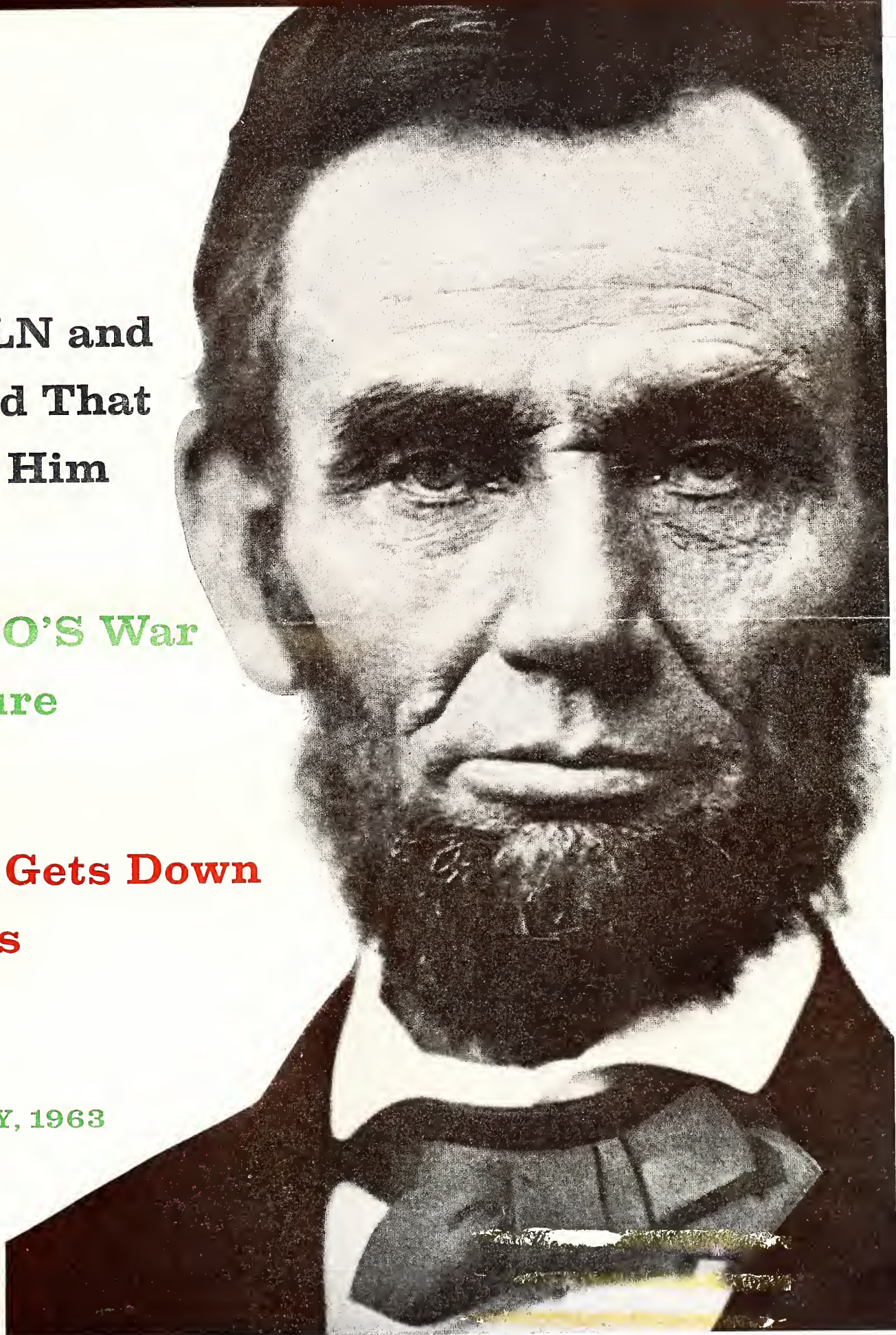
An International Magazine

**LINCOLN and  
the Land That  
Shaped Him**

**MEXICO'S War  
on Nature**

**Guelph Gets Down  
to Cases**

**FEBRUARY, 1963**







# LINCOLN and the Land That Shaped Him

*He came to New Salem as a raw, uneducated frontier youth of 22. Twenty-nine years later he was President of the United States.*

**By CLARENDON E. VAN NORMAN**

moved from cabin to cabin. From Samuel Hill's residence I went to Onstot's cooper shop, to Miller's blacksmith shop, and on, traversing the length of the village.

In the buildings and their contents I sensed something of the historic import of the American pioneer community. Environments like this helped to mold the character of the early Americans. Here in New Salem, confidence in the common man and abiding faith in the Almighty were impressed deeply in the soul of Abraham Lincoln.

In April of 1831 Lincoln hired out to Denton Offutt to pilot a flat-



*Photos by Herbert Georg; illustrations by Jan Wills*

**T**HE PIONEER village of New Salem, Illinois, lies 20 miles northwest of Springfield. From St. Louis, where in June Rotarians will gather in Convention, it is a leisurely three-hour motor trip. "Lincoln's New Salem" it is often called; he lived there from 1831 to 1837.

The village was founded in 1829 by James Rutledge and John M. Camron. They built a saw and grist mill on the Sangamon River just below the hill. A loghouse village grew, flourished briefly while river transportation by steamboat seemed a possibility, then declined. In 1839 it flickered out.

Recently I visited New Salem, where now stands the village, reconstructed, cabin after cabin. The Berry-Lincoln store was the first building in the restoration, the cornerstone being placed in November, 1932. It was a gray, misty morning and no person was in sight as I

*Life in New Salem, where Lincoln lived for six years, centered about the hearth. The fire warmed the log homes, brought the rabbit stew to boil, and gave light for reading and mending.*







Candle molds, china, and bolts of calico line the shelves of the store in which Lincoln and William F. Berry were partners. Lincoln served as postmaster in New Salem. Ann Rutledge's "mail calls" (drawing) blossomed into romance which ended tragically with her death at 22.

boat of produce to New Orleans. The boat became stranded on the dam built near the Rutledge mill opposite New Salem. There it hung, bow in air and stern taking water. Villagers yelled instructions to the tall pilot, who devised an ingenious plan to get it under way once more. Offutt saw possibilities in Lincoln and offered him a store-clerk job on his return from the river trip.

Penniless, on his own, and for the first time away from kinfolk, Lincoln came to New Salem in July, 1831, like a "piece of floating driftwood." At 22 he was undecided and full of contradictions. He had a good sense of humor, yet at times was deeply melancholy; he was athletic, yet ungainly; now energetic, now lazy.

Offutt liked Lincoln, and his boasting of Lincoln's abilities brought Lincoln a challenge to a wrestling match from Jack Armstrong. Jack was champion of the rough-and-ready boys from Clary's Grove. Lincoln accepted the challenge and before a crowd he bested Jack, winning not only the match but the friendship and political support of the clan thereafter.

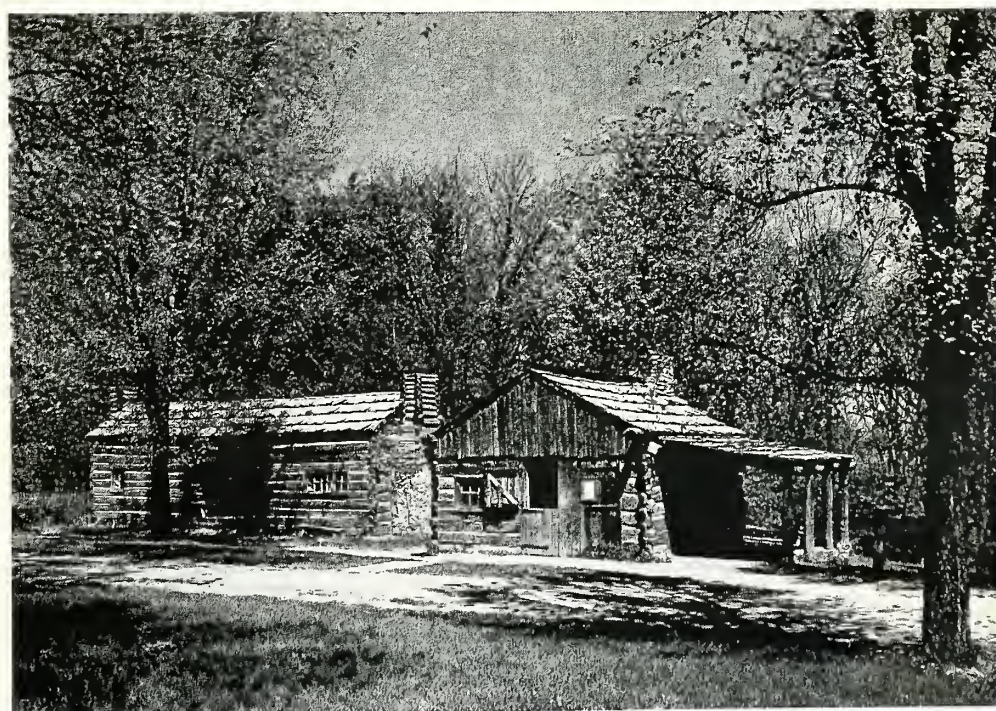
At Offutt's store, work had hardly started when the Black Hawk War broke out. Lincoln volunteered and

was chosen captain of his company. At Kellogg's Grove he helped bury five men killed by Indians. His vivid, recorded recollection reads, "And every man had a round, red spot on the top of his head, about as big as a dollar, where the redskins had taken his scalp. It was frightful, but it was grotesque; and the red sunlight seemed to paint everything all over. I remember that one man had on buckskin breeches." He was in no battle, but he made friends, told

stories, and gained knowledge of men under discipline.

Back from the war "without means and without business," he became a candidate for the Illinois State Legislature. He watched the effect of his speaking on people. The people listened and found him convincing. The community was impressed by his ambition. Abe lost his first campaign, but 277 out of 290 in his own precinct voted for him. He remarked later that this was the only

New Salem, flourishing at the time Lincoln arrived in 1831, declined rapidly after 1839 and fell into total ruin. The State of Illinois reconstructed the cabins and stores in the 1930s.







*Living, dining room, and kitchen by day, bedroom by night, was the general plan of the New Salem home. A family with a Seth Thomas clock for the mantle was right in style.*

## Lincoln and the Land That Shaped Him

*[Continued]*



*A placid mill pond reflects the reconstructed saw and grist mill. In the Spring of 1831 the 22-year-old Lincoln first saw New Salem when a flatboat he was helping to pole down the Sangamon River to New Orleans became stranded on the original dam of the Rutledge mill.*



*Though the anvil is quiet and the hearth cold, the blacksmith shop of Joshua Miller still seems a place of activity. An old buggy, its leather top stiff with age, is one of the authentic pieces which historians collected in reconstructing the village.*



Francis Regnier, a 25-year-old physician, counselled his patients and compounded his medicines at this desk. An herb garden grows outside.



The Rutledge Tavern boasts two rooms and a loft where men boarders slept. The lean-to at the rear served as storage and as a Summer kitchen. Lincoln lived here for a short time.





defeat by direct vote of the people he ever had. He easily won in 1834 and again in 1836.

Stephen T. Logan, who later was to be his law partner, described the young politician: "He was a very tall and gawky and rough-looking fellow then—his pantaloons didn't meet his shoes by six inches. But after he began speaking, I became very much interested in him. He made a very sensible speech."

The election over, "he studied what he should do—thought of learning the blacksmith trade—thought of trying law—rather thought he could not succeed without a better education."

From Rowan Herndon he pur-

● Clarendon E. Van Norman is a Rotarian high-school mathematics teacher in Galesburg, Ill. For many years a dealer in rare books and manuscripts, he became a collector of Lincoln lore as a youth. In 1953-54 he was the Governor of his Rotary District—the heart of "Lincoln country."

chased a partnership in a store with Bill Berry. The firm of Lincoln and Berry was formed. It is noteworthy that Herndon "Accepted his note in payment of the whole." The store did not prosper, but "winked out" and Lincoln found himself in debt.

In 1833 he became postmaster of New Salem, a position which he held until the office was moved to Petersburg in 1836. Lincoln netted little above \$50 a year. He was lax in his duties and a contemporary letter comments: "The postmaster is very careless about leaving his office open and unlocked during the day—half the time I go in and get my newspaper, etc., without anyone there."

As a source of income, surveying was more important than being postmaster. Under Thomas M. Neale he became deputy surveyor. Surveys of New Boston, Bath, Albany, Huron, and a resurvey of Petersburg were made. Roads and boundary lines run by him still exist. But to his

meager income the most significant additions came in warrants for his legislative service.

All the while he studied and read. He was helped by schoolmaster Mentor Graham, an able man who loved teaching those of ambitious nature. Abe dived into Kirkham's grammar, which he walked six miles to get. In writing he developed a habit of accuracy to the smallest detail. In mathematics his interest now centered on Euclid. Lincoln knew the importance of reason and proof.

At an auction in Springfield he purchased a copy of Blackstone's *Commentaries*. It was said in one session he mastered 40 pages. Bowling Green, justice of the peace, enjoyed young Lincoln's logic and wit. Lincoln argued minor cases in his court. He witnessed deeds, identifications of stray horses, and other documents. In learning the law, and, from his legislative experience, the importance of further study in the field became obvious to him.

In leaving the village I paused to look at the heroic statue *Abraham Lincoln—From New Salem*, by sculptor Avard Fairbanks. The aimlessness is gone—an energetic, determined Lincoln lets fall from his left hand the ax as he firmly holds in his right arm the copy of Blackstone. He sets out for Springfield and the larger avenues that will lead him to the U. S. Presidency and to the stature of world citizen.

About him someone said, "They laughed at his stories until they had almost shaken their ribs loose." Another said, "He mastered surveying in six weeks and grammar in three." Others wondered and spoke softly of Ann Rutledge. The great Lincoln writer Carl Sandburg wrote, "The facts and myths of his life are to be an American possession shared widely over the world." And again, "The people of many countries take Lincoln for their own. He belongs to them."

Prophetic sound the words of the Bard of Avon:

*His life was gentle  
And the elements so mixed in him that  
Nature might stand up  
And say to all the world  
This was a man.*

## MAP OF THE LINCOLN COUNTRY







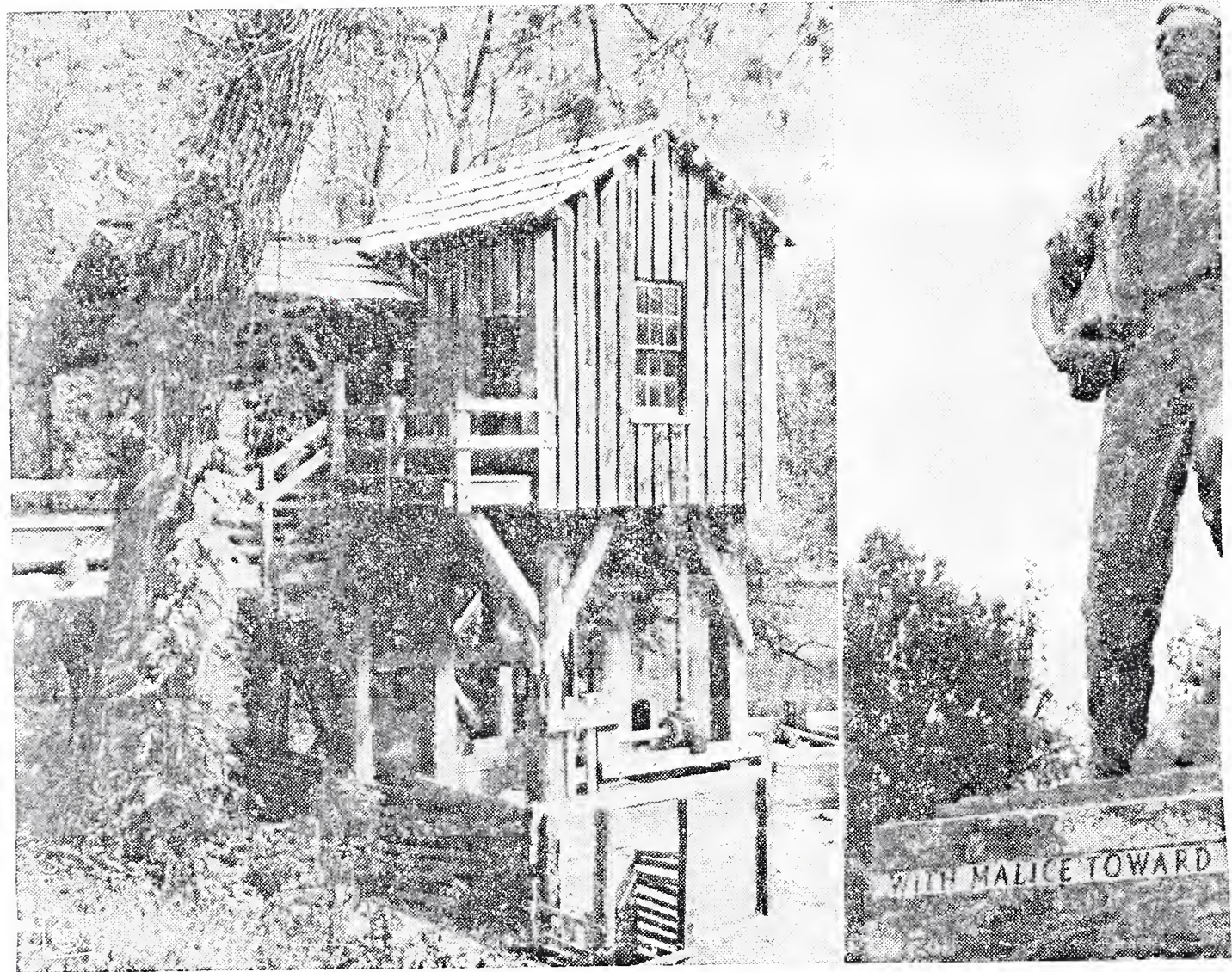
Heat from the fireplace chimney (left) warmed this rough lean-to built on the rear of the Lincoln-Berry store. It served as a storeroom and, for a time, as the future President's bedroom. Beds invariably were short. Tall men such as Lincoln were adept at "folding up" of a night.

Lincoln, who had arrived in New Salem like "a piece of floating driftwood," in six years had taught himself law and surveying, and had become a leader both in New Salem and in the State Legislature. On April 15, 1837, astride a borrowed horse and with all his possessions in his saddlebags, he moved to Springfield, the capital.



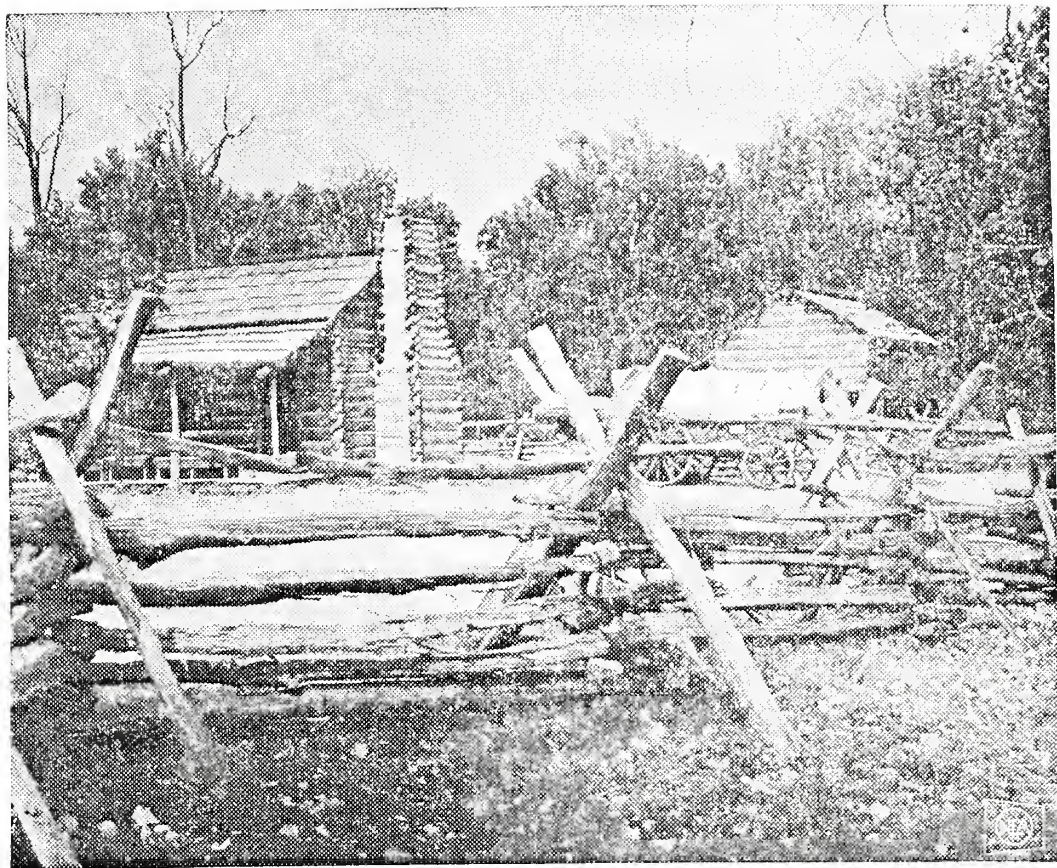


## Living Memories of Lincoln



This saw and grist mill, left, was originally built in 1829 by James Rutledge, father of Ann, and John Camron. It was here that Abe Lincoln stranded his flatboat. He stayed in New Salem for six years. Statue, right, by Avard Fairbanks, stands at the entrance to the Lincoln Park. Words from Lincoln's second inaugural address girdle the base.



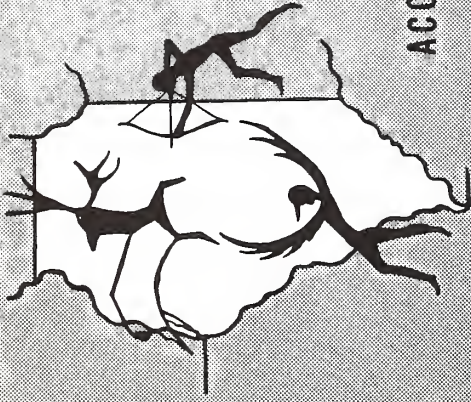


Rail fences zigzag through 328-acre park, which was visited by over a million persons in 1963. The Conestoga wagon, right, is an original. Restored cabin is typical of frontier homes in Lincoln's day.

New Salem, Ill., was a raw and isolated little backwoods village when Abraham Lincoln chanced to come there in 1831. It was here that he grew from youth to manhood. It was here that he met Ann Rutledge. It was here that he began his reading in the law, and it was from here that he made his first ventures into politics and started on the road that would lead to the presidency of the United States. Lincoln Village at New Salem State Park, 20 miles north of Springfield, preserves the flavor of this bit of America as it was more than a century ago. Rail and hand-made picket fences enclose most of the restored buildings. Livestock and crops have been added to give realism. The restored steamboat "Talisman," which Lincoln once copiloted, floats on the Sangamon River.



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# Iliniwëk

ACCOUNTS OF THE HISTORY, SCIENCE AND PEOPLE OF THE GREAT MIDWEST

VOLUME 3

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER — 1965

NUMBER 4





**THE STAMP COLLECTOR**

# Abe's Back in New Salem

By Richard McP. Cabeen

**T**HE DESIGN of the Abraham Lincoln 4-cent stamp—first in the new “Prominent Americans” series — departs from the conventional, formal line engraving to a detailed drawing of logs of a New Salem, Ill., cabin. Usually, the background is plain.

The stamp will be placed on first day sale Nov. 19 in New York City at the American Stamp Dealers' show.

William Hyde, a San Francisco graphic artist, designed the stamp, which will be printed in black in sheets of 400. Hyde is making his debut as a stamp designer.

His portrait of Lincoln is based on a photograph by Matthew Brady, the famed Civil war photographer. The picture that Hyde used was one of eight made by Brady shortly before President Lincoln met Gen. Ulysses S. Grant for the first time.

The log cabin detail was taken from a photograph of the cooperage at New Salem where Lincoln was supposed to have studied as a youth.

There has been no indication of the use of the stamp, and some may criticize the design since it lacks the word “Postage.” Like other regular issue stamps, the printing of the Lincoln issue will be unlimited.

Since first day covers are considered 1st class mail, the collector is faced with the problem of providing at least



number in your address, and do not order unused stamps.

5 cents postage on each cover. Some alternatives are to place a 1-cent stamp on your covers, allowing space for the 4-cent Lincoln stamp at the upper right hand corner; send a 5-cent remittance for each envelope to be serviced, and ask the New York City postmaster to supply the 1-cent stamp; or send the remittance to provide a pair of the new Lincoln stamps on each cover, adding an air mail label.

This writer favors the latter method since it does not involve placing the dated first day of issue postmark on older stamps.

Collectors should send their prepared envelopes and a remittance to postmaster, New York City 10001. The outside envelope should be indorsed “First Day Covers, 4-cent Lincoln Stamp,” and should be postmarked not later than Nov. 19. Show your zip code

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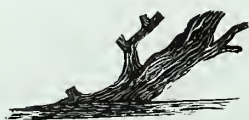


# OUR COVER PICTURE

Rutledge and Camron were walking along the banks of the Sangamon River looking for a place to build a mill sometime in 1827. They came to a loop in the river which pressed against the face of a steep bluff. They decided to build their mill there. On January 22, 1829, at this same place, they began to build their dam by filling the river with big wooden boxes which were filled with stones. A surveyor, Mr. Harrison, began to lay out a town on the bluff. The date was October 23, 1829. The proprietors, Rutledge and Camron, named their town New Salem.

Two years later, sometime in March, 1831, after the "winter of the deep snow," Abe Lincoln and John Hanks, unable to travel on the flooded land, put a canoe in the Sangamon River at Decatur. They rode down its flooded water to Springfield, and at Springfield changed to a flatboat and rode the river to New Salem where they got stuck on the dam.

When people asked Mr. Lincoln how he ever happened to go to a place like New Salem, he would summarize the facts poetically like this: "I was a floating piece of driftwood; that after the winter of the deep snow, had come down the river with a freshet; borne along on the swelling waters, and aimlessly floating about, I accidentally lodged at New Salem."



## OVER THE EDITOR'S SHOULDER

At the entrance of the restored New Salem village stands a statue of Lincoln by Avard Fairbanks. Whenever I see this statue of Lincoln with his book in one hand and his feet on the woodpile, I think of Squire Godbey and a story he used to tell about Lincoln.

Mr. Godbey, who often employed Lincoln to do farm work for him, was surprised one day to find him sitting barefoot on the summit of a woodpile attentively reading a book. This being an unusual thing for farm hands to do in that early day, I asked him, relates Godbey, "What he was reading." "I'm not reading," he answered. "I'm studying." "Studying what?" I inquired. "Law, sir" was the emphatic response. It was really too much for me, as I looked up at him sitting there proud as Cicero. "Great God Almighty!" I exclaimed, and passed on.

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Lincoln always liked a good story and he probably would have enjoyed this little incident which occurred one afternoon in Rutledge's Tavern.

A group of visitors were standing in the tavern watching the costumed hostess as she mixed a batch of corn bread. . . a mother and a daughter (about five) were standing in the group. The mother felt her daughter pulling on her arm and asked her to stop, as she was interested in watching the corn bread being made and baked in the fireplace. The daughter persisted, however, and the mother took her to a far corner of the room and asked her what she wanted. The child pointed to the costumed hostess and quietly whispered, "Mommy, why didn't she die with all the rest of the people!"



The rather fanciful opening and close of our story in this issue was suggested on one of my trips to New Salem. On this particular trip I was interested in obtaining pictures of the buildings and cabins, before too many visitors thronged the street. I had driven part of the night so I could arrive early in the morning. I arrived earlier than planned, however, and found the parking lot empty and no one about. Wishing to stretch my legs after the ride, I walked into the village. I was tired, and as I passed the Kelso-Miller house, the bench on the dog-run caught my eye. I walked over, made myself comfortable, and sat relaxing as I stared at the little cabins scattered along the street. My mood of relaxed indifference to the scene in front of me was suddenly

interrupted by a figure sweeping up the street toward me in an old fashioned red gingham dress. She disappeared through the doorway of a nearby cabin. Soon smoke rose from the chimney. Another figure dressed in a similar fashion appeared and entered a cabin across the street. Then I saw smoke rising from this chimney also.

This scene taking place as it did in the quiet early morning in what I supposed was an empty village was rather startling, especially since I did not know the state employed costumed hostesses for some of the cabins. With this atmosphere of New Salem coming to life, it required no stretch of the imagination to visualize Mr. Lincoln walking up the street.



God bless..... and keep you

# Illiniwek

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EDITOR, RICHARD PHILLIPS  
ART EDITOR, T. R. DOWNES



# LINCOLN'S

## NEW SALEM

I had driven part of the night so that I might arrive early at Lincoln's New Salem. My reason for this was so that I might take pictures before the visitors became too numerous. I arrived at the park, however, much sooner than I had planned. There was just the faintest rosy glow in the eastern sky as I drove into the parking lot. There was no one about, and wishing to stretch my legs a bit, I walked over to the entrance of the village. I noticed that it was open, walked in, and continued down the street. I felt tired, and as I passed in front of the Kelso-Miller house, I thought how inviting the little bench sitting on the dog-run looked. I walked over, sat down, and leaned back against the house . . . this was comfortable and relaxing after my long ride. I looked down the street past the little cabins and over the trees that rimmed the edge of the village and watched the sun outline the clouds. How long I sat there staring at the sunrise I do not know, but all of a sudden I was aware that something in the distance was moving up the village street. It was something I could not define because it seemed to move or dance like heat waves in the summer. As I watched, it kept moving toward me up the street. Suddenly the movement stopped, and I could see it was a man . . . a man that I had never seen in person, but recognized instantly by his black coat and stove pipe hat. Now he was so near that I could reach out and touch his hand. I looked up into his grey eyes, sad—yet they twinkled. He addressed me, "You are a stranger here are you not?" I opened my mouth to speak, but there was no sound. He continued, "You know, we are the only ones here, and as I have some time

before I must go, why couldn't I have the privilege of showing you my village. I once walked this very ground with my bare feet. I know and love it as few others do." He turned, motioned for me to follow, and led me up the street and down the hill past the old mill to the river. On a rise he stopped, raised his arm, and pointed.

.....

"This is the Sangamon River which meanders across the great prairie of Illinois. I first saw this river shortly after my twenty-first birthday in the spring of the year 1830. My father, Thomas Lincoln, brought his family to Illinois where he planned to establish his new home. We arrived in Decatur, Illinois, sometime around March 15, 1830. My father's land was located about eight miles southwest of town on a bluff overlooking this very river. I worked there most of that year helping to build the cabin, clear the land, and break the prairie sod.

"Early in October John Hanks brought a man by the name of Denton Offutt to our farm. Offutt had learned that Hanks was an experienced boatman and wanted to hire him to take a flatboat to New Orleans. Offutt and Hanks decided that my stepbrother, Johnson, and I would also be hired for the trip which was to start from Springfield, Illinois, the next spring.

"That winter, my first in Illinois, was a memorable one. It became known as the "winter of the deep snow". The snow started to fall early in December and got quite deep before it started melting in late February. The settlers were unprepared for such a severe winter and experienced many hardships. The

people did not forget this winter, and for many years it remained a reference point in time. They described an event as happening either before or after the "deep snow".

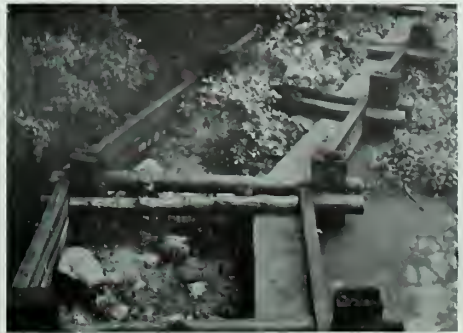
"About March 1, 1831, Hanks and I were to meet Offutt in Springfield, get Johnson, and pick up the flatboat. We decided that with the land flooded from the melting snow and the roads impassable we had better canoe down the Sangamon to Springfield. We landed at Jody's Ferry, which was about five miles from town, and went in search of Offutt. We finally located him at the Buckhorn Inn. We also found that he did not have the flatboat ready as he had promised. Offutt, however, hired Hanks, Johnson and I to build the boat as well as pilot it to New Orleans. Lumber for the boat was sawed at Kirkpatrick's Mill and brought to the river bank near Sangamotown. We went to work building the boat and had it ready to launch in about a month. We then sent to Springfield for Offutt. Our cargo of corn and barreled pork was loaded during the next few days. We swung the boat out into the stream and floated down the Sangamon. We reached New Salem in late April. Right over there (he pointed toward the dam) we had the unfortunate experience of becoming stranded on the mill dam and hung helplessly over it for a day and night with our boat full of water. We at last solved our problem by unloading part of the cargo and drilling a hole in the bottom of the boat to allow the water to run out. We plugged the hole, and with the help of some of the townspeople we pushed the boat over the dam.

Continued on page 28



**RUTLEDGE-CAMRON MILL**

Lincoln managed this mill for Denton Offutt from sometime in the fall of 1831, to the spring of 1832. Offutt rented the mill from Rutledge and Cameron, the owners who built it and put it in operation in 1829.



**MILL DAM**

Lincoln's flatboat stuck on the mill dam in April of 1831. Here it hung helplessly for a day and a night. The people from the village watched with amazement as a tall young man drilled a hole in the boat to let the water out and floated it over the dam.





#### DENTON OFFUTT'S STORE

After returning to New Salem from his flatboat trip to New Orleans, Lincoln helped Denton Offutt build this store; they opened its doors about September 1, 1831. Lincoln clerked in this store and slept in the back room with his assistant, William Greene. It operated for only eight months.



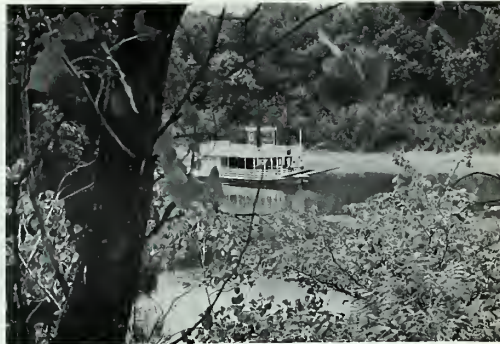
#### CLARY'S GROCERY

Lincoln's friends, the Clary's Grove Boys, made this grocery (saloon) their headquarters. William Clary built the grocery about 1830. He also operated the ferry at New Salem. His brother John Clary settled and was the founder of Clary's Grove in 1819.



#### ROWAN HERNDON'S CABIN

While clerking at Offutt's store and tending the mill, Lincoln boarded with Rowan Herndon. Lincoln's first business venture occurred when he purchased Herndon's share in the Herndon-Berry Store.



#### THE TALISMAN

Lincoln helped a group of New Salem men clear logs and brush from the Sangamon River so the steamboat, *The Talisman*, could push to within seven miles of Springfield. Lincoln was hired as Rowan Herndon's assistant to pilot the boat on its return trip to Beardstown.

"Our plight attracted many people who came and stood on the river bank or along the mill pond and watched us try to save our boat. Offutt in the meantime husied himself visiting and talking with the people. They told him that the Sangamon area was opening up and more and more people were settling here. As was his wont, he became enthusiastic at the prospect of New Salem's future development. He told the people that he would build a steamboat with rollers to plow up and down the Sangamon and that I would be her captain. He also promised the people that he would return after the trip and open a store in New Salem.

"The next day we reloaded our flatboat, waved goodbye to those who had come down to see us off, and again pushed our boat out into the stream. After stopping to pick up some bogs at Squire Godbey's, we were on our way to New Orleans. I was gone from New Salem for about three months on the trip."

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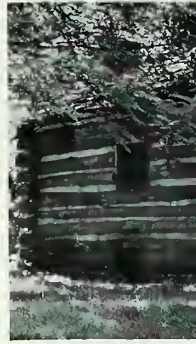
"He led me back up the road to the top of the bluff. When we reached Offutt's store, he walked over and sat down on the edge of the porch. He then continued, 'The trip was profitable to Offutt and he decided to return to New Salem and open a store. I was hired as his clerk. He told me to go to New Salem and wait until he arrived with a stock of merchandise. We parted in St. Louis, and I arrived in New Salem sometime around July 25, 1831. I made arrangements to board with Rev. Canron. Since I had nothing to do, I wandered about the village and talked with the people.

"On August 1, there was an election. The polls were at John Canron's house. Here I voted for the first time. Election day was one of the special days of the year in New Salem, for it brought many people to town. I stayed around the polls all day and made the acquaintance of many of them. Of course, I told them a story or two when things got a bit quiet.

"After the election I met a Dr. Nelson who was taking his family to Texas. He wanted someone to pilot his flatboat down the Sangamon to Beardstown. As Offutt had not arrived and I was tired of loafing, I took this work. Shortly after my return from Beardstown, Offutt arrived and we opened the store about September 1. Offutt no sooner had the store open than he began looking for another business. The mill interested him and he rented it. I was put in charge of running the mill as well as clerking in the store. Offutt, however, hired William Greene Junior, a boy of nineteen who was known locally as 'Slinkin' Bill', to help with the store.

"The last cabin on the bluff which is directly behind the store is Clary's Grocery. This was run by Bill Clary, a brother of John Clary who settled in Clary's Grove around 1819. The grocery, which was our name for a saloon, was the meeting place for farmers waiting their turn at the mill. It was also the meeting place of a gang of young men known as the Clary's Grove Boys. It was here that the boys held their cockfights, wrestling matches, and gander pulls. This was also where the wrestling match between Jack Armstrong and I took place. You know from the stories that have been written how the fight ended. I have always been very thankful for the friendship of the Armstrongs and Clary's Grove Boys. Our friendship started on that very afternoon when instead of claiming foul after I had thrown him, Jack called the match fair, got up, and came over to shake my hand.

"Later that fall, after harvest grinding was over at the mill and business declined at the store, I had more time. Part of this time I spent attending the regular meetings of the New Salem Debating Society. It was while speaking at these meetings that I became aware of my need for more education. I discussed this with Mentor Graham, a teacher who had



#### SCHOOL AND CHURCH

Lincoln's teacher subscription school in a southwest of the village studies. The building was restored. It was also

a subscription school in New Salem. He advised me to first study grammar. School books were very scarce on the frontier. However, in time he located a Kirkham's Grammar which was owned by a farmer who lived north of town. I now used most of my time at the store for my studies. When in need of help to understand certain passages or rules, I would go to Mentor Graham. My friends, including William Greene who worked with me in the store, would help by asking questions from the book so I could recite the answer or definition.

"During January, 1832, we had quite a bit of excitement in New Salem. The Sangamon Journal of January 26, carried a news story of great importance. A Captain Vincent Bogue who had a mill on the Sangamon announced that he was in Cincinnati and had chartered a steamboat called the 'Talisman'. This boat would be loaded with merchandise and brought up the Sangamon River to Springfield. This caused a big boom to develop. Towns were planned along the river and these sites were divided into lots which were being bought and sold. Everybody was waiting for news of the Talisman, and on March 1, the Sangamon Journal had a story about its arrival in St. Louis with a full cargo. Just before Captain Bogue had left Cincinnati, he sent word that he would like a crew of men from New Salem to meet him at Beardstown. He wanted them to clear the overhanging brush, logs and snags from the river as the boat moved up the Sangamon to Springfield. A hostload of men including Rowan Herndon and I left shortly after March 1, for Beardstown.

"For some time I had been discussing politics with several of the local people and considered running for the state legislature. On March 9, I announced my candidacy.

"The steamboat was able to push up the Sangamon to Portland Landing which was about seven miles north of Springfield. The arrival of the Talisman was the occasion of much celebrating both along its route and at Springfield. A reception and ball was held at the courthouse and all of Springfield's society turned out. The steamboat remained at the landing for about a week. The water in the Sangamon River had, however, fallen rapidly. This alarmed Captain Bogue and he made immediate plans to return to Beardstown with his boat. Rowan Herndon was hired by Captain Bogue to pilot the boat, and he in turn had Captain Bogue lure me for his assistant on the return trip. Everything went well on our return to Beardstown, except we had to dismantle part of the dam at New Salem to allow the Talisman to pass. After reaching Beardstown, Mr. Herndon and I walked back to New Salem.

"By this time, Denton Offutt's enterprises, the store and the mill, had gone from bad to worse. He suddenly disappeared from New Salem and was never seen in the town again.

"April Fools Day of 1832, was one that I still remember. Offutt had vanished without a word or sign to me, and I had no job or prospects of one in the future. I worried about this problem until a man on horseback rode up to Rutledge's Tavern and posted a handbill on a nearby tree. This was a notice announcing the call by Governor Reynolds for volunteer enlistments in the Illinois State Militia. The reason for the call was Blackhawk's invasion of Illinois with a large party of warriors. As I was without a job, I volunteered for thirty days' service. I was enrolled at Richland, which was near New Salem, on April 21, 1832. My company was composed chiefly of friends and neighbors. The Clary's Grove Boys formed the biggest part of it. It was due to their influence that I was elected Captain by an overwhelming majority... if you are familiar with my autobiography, you know how highly I valued this honor.





men clear logs and  
amboat. The Talis-  
pringfield. Lincoln  
o pilot the boat on



#### SCHOOL AND CHURCH

Lincoln's teacher, Mentor Graham, built and taught a subscription school in a log cabin which was about a half mile southwest of the village. Lincoln went here for help with his studies. The building was the only "round log" cabin that was restored. It was also used as a church.

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"Our company was not at any time engaged in active fighting. After two re-enlistments I was mustered out at Black River, Wisconsin, on July 16, 1832. Unfortunately, the night before we were to leave Black River, my horse and that of my mess mate, Harrison, were stolen. There was nothing left for us to do but walk back to New Salem. The other members of our company felt sorry for us and took turns walking so that occasionally we could ride. John T. Stuart, with whom I would later form a law partnership, was one who shared his horse with us. At Peoria, Mr. Harrison and I bought a canoe and paddled our way down the Illinois River to Havana. From there I trudged across the prairie to New Salem.

"I arrived about two weeks before the election and busied myself by going about visiting with the people and asking them to vote for me. On August 6, the people went to the polls; but they did not vote to send me to the General Assembly as their representative in 1832. I was not discouraged because there had been no opportunity to campaign while I was away at the war. I had lost the election, but inside I had a feeling that I could do better the next time if given the chance.

"The prospect of a job or any income disappeared with the loss of the election. I wanted to work and thought of becoming a blacksmith. Mr. Miller, the blacksmith, was always busy; but I decided against it. I wanted lighter work, or perhaps I should say work that required the use of your mind. Law appealed to me, but at this time I did not feel that I had enough education to read or study for it. I looked for possibilities among the businessmen of New Salem and it seemed to me that the local merchant fared better with his time and money than most others in the community. I decided to become a clerk in a store, but the storekeepers were more in need of customers than clerks at this time. In the meantime, I took whatever odd jobs I could find for bread enough to keep body and soul together.

\*\*\*\*\*

"I need to stretch my legs, so let's walk into the village and sit on the porch of Hill's store for a while." I followed him and as we passed the first cabin on our way to the village he continued, "It was during September while I was boarding with Rowan Herndon who lived in that little cabin over there, that he offered to sell me his interest in the Herndon and Berry Store. This was out of the question, and I told Mr. Herndon that I had no money. He replied, "I know that, I am prepared to accept your note as payment on my entire interest in the store." I told him the offer was a very generous one, and I would think it over. Within the next few days I bought his interest in the store with my personal note.

"There was very little money on the frontier and the only possible means of exchange if you had no money or goods to trade was to give a note or a promise to pay sometime in the future. In New Salem, notes were given, taken, traded, and sold among the people somewhat like money.

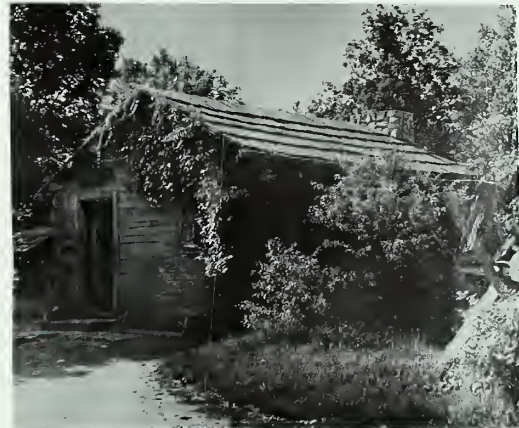
"Over there (he pointed across the street) was our first store. We opened its doors under the name of Lincoln and Berry for the first time in September, 1832. After we had operated for about two months as partners, it was evident that neither of us would ever be successful merchants. It was said about town that my application to Shakespeare and Burns was only equalled by Berry's attention to the spigot and barrel. Others, not so kind, said, "Lincoln's up front talking politics and telling stories and Berry's in the back drinking up the merchandise."

Continued on page 30



#### SAMUEL HILL'S STORE

Lincoln was appointed to succeed Samuel Hill, the owner of this store, as Postmaster of New Salem on May 7, 1833. Hill was New Salem's first Postmaster, and received his appointment on Christmas Day, 1829. Lincoln continued the use of the post office already established in Hill's Store.



#### FIRST LINCOLN-BERRY STORE

In the fall of 1832, Lincoln purchased Rowan Herndon's interest in the Herndon-Berry Store. The new partners, Lincoln and Berry, opened the first Lincoln-Berry Store on September 1, 1832. Sometime around January 1, 1833, they moved across the street to the second Lincoln-Berry Store.



#### THE RUTLEDGE TAVERN

Lincoln moved into the Rutledge Tavern in the fall of 1832. James Rutledge built the tavern in the fall of 1830. Lincoln liked living at the tavern because he came into contact with many people who were travelling, and these people usually brought news.





#### TAVERN WINDOW

The candle burning at night in the window of Rutledge's Tavern was a notice or invitation to those travelling the road that the tavern was open and inside they might find hospitality, food and lodging.



#### TAVERN LOFT

Lincoln slept in the loft under the eaves of the tavern with the men and probably the Rutledge boys. Lincoln was known to give up his place in the loft when the tavern was crowded.

"Shortly after Rowan Herndon sold his interest in the store to me, he moved away. I had to find another place to board, so I moved into Rutledge's Tavern. I slept with the boys in the loft. If they were crowded, I slept on the store's counter. If you go over there you'll see a candle in the window; this was left burning to tell people the tavern was open. Sometimes I would go down to Onstotts, the cooper's place, and study by the light of his shavings. I usually returned late after everyone was in bed, and had orders from Miss Ann Rutledge, who would leave the candle burning for me, to be sure and blow it out when I came home — sometimes I forgot.

"It was around New Years Day of 1833, that the Clary's Grove Boys smashed a store in New Salem which was operated by Reuben Radford. This was an attempt to drive Mr. Radford out of business for some offense he had committed against them. In this instance they were successful, because he sold the balance of his undamaged stock to William Creene who owned Radford's building. Mr. Creene, in turn, sold this merchandise to Berry and me. This stock we combined with the stock we already owned and moved into Creene's store building. This store became known as the second Lincoln-Berry store.

"A visitor to New Salem in the spring of 1833, would probably have found me lying under a maple tree by the store with my feet halfway up its trunk studying. The reason I spent most of my time here was that conditions were not good at the store. Mr. Berry wanted to get a license to dispense liquor by the drink. I objected, but he went ahead and was granted a tavern license on March 6, 1833. Because of this I disposed of my interest in the store to Mr. Berry within a few weeks.

"April 1, 1833, found me exactly where I had been a year ago on that April Fools Day. I had no job and no prospects of one in the future. There was one difference, however, I was now in debt. My fortunes seemed to be at their lowest ebb. To be truthful, I was in some respects not so bad off because there was plenty of opportunity in the community for one to earn bread by hard labor. But, again, even though I had the necessary strength for hard labor, I wanted to work with my mind.

"About a month later, on May 7, 1833, I was notified of my appointment as Postmaster of New Salem. I was to succeed Samuel Hill. This was a surprise to me because the appointment was made under President Jackson, a Democrat, while I was known about the community as a Whig. New Salem was on the mail route which ran through Springfield, New Salem, Havana, Lewistown, Canton, Knoxville, and Moomouth. This was a distance of about 125 miles. The mail carrier was Ossian Ross of Havana. Mr. Hill, the former Postmaster, had located the post office in this store where we are now sitting, and as the new Postmaster had to maintain a permanent office, I moved into the one already established. This also made it convenient for me to help out as a clerk in Hill's store. The Postmaster was paid by commissions on the mail passing through his office. In New Salem this wasn't very much, but it was not confining and I could take all sorts of jobs to earn additional money. By delivering the mail around the community, I got to know the people and they in turn got to know me. This was an advantage later when I campaigned for political office. I worked the summer of 1833, at the post office, helped with the harvest, split rails, and clerked in the store.

"Sometime during September, I was in the woods near New Salem splitting rails when Pollard Simmons dropped by and said, 'Have you heard the news?' I replied, 'No.' 'Well Mr. Lincoln,' he continued, 'Mr. John Calhoun, the surveyor of Sangamon County, has appointed you his new deputy.' This appointment was even more unusual than that of Postmaster, and it worried me. Mr. Calhoun was one of Sangamon County's leading Democrats and I was a Whig. Also, I was not a surveyor by any reach of the imagination. I thought it best, therefore, to have a talk with Mr. Calhoun before proceeding any further. He assured me that my work as deputy surveyor would require no political commitments or restrictions of any kind. He explained to me that the county was rapidly filling up with settlers and that they required surveys for their farms, towns, and roads. I also explained that I knew nothing about surveying. He said that he was aware of this and was prepared to wait until I had sufficient knowledge for the job. He handed me Gibson's

Theory and Practice of Surveying, and suggested that I ask Mentor Craham to help me with my studies. I thanked him — he shook my hand and said, 'Now don't show up for work until you can run a survey.'

"I studied day and night. I can remember when Mr. Craham and I would be up late working calculations and we would hear Mrs. Craham's call telling us that the house was getting cold and for us to put wood on the fire before we froze to death.

"Just before Christmas in 1833, I bought a horse, a surveyor's compass and chain and reported to Calhoun for work. I worked with him for a very short time so he could satisfy himself of my ability to do the work. On January 1, 1834, Mr. Calhoun put me out on my own. He assigned me the northern part of Sangamon County. On January 6, 1834, I ran a survey for Reason Shipley and on the 14th, a survey for Russell Codbey. Mr. Codbey gave me two deerskins in payment of the survey. I took these to Hanna Armstrong, Jack's wife, and she sewed patches of the buckskin on the legs of my trousers. I had found that while surveying, I was fast losing my homespun clothing to the briars and thorns of the thickets. I did not have to worry about bread anymore because the money I received from the post office and my surveying gave me a reasonable income.

"During the spring of 1834, John T. Stuart and some others encouraged me to again announce my candidacy as a representative to the state legislature. It did not take much coaxing for me to get back in politics. The duties of the post office and surveying made demands which took up most of my time that summer. I was unable, therefore, to conduct a very intensive campaign. I did get out several times, however, and speak before local groups. On several occasions I happened to meet John T. Stuart who was also a candidate for the legislature. Mr. Stuart, talked to me about the study of law and suggested that I begin to read law. Somehow it seemed to me that politics and law belonged together; and liking politics the way I did, I went at it in good earnest.

Continued on page 32



#### SECOND LINCOLN-BERRY STORE

Lincoln and his partner Berry moved into this store sometime around January 1, 1833. This became known as the second Lincoln-Berry Store. Their building was the only one in New Salem with siding on it.



- (1) RUTLEDGE - CAMRON MILL
- (2) LINCOLN'S FLATBOAT
- (3) MILL DAM
- (4) SANGAMON RIVER
- (5) CLARY'S FERRY
- (6) OFFUTT'S STORE
- (7) CLARY'S GROCERY
- (8) ROWAN HERNDON'S CABIN
- (9) REV. JOHN CAMRON'S CABIN
- (10) RUTLEDGE TAVERN AND HOME

- (11) SPRINGFIELD ROAD
- (12) HAVANA ROAD
- (13) FIRST LINCOLN - BERRY STORE
- (14) DR. JOHN ALLEN'S CABIN
- (15) SECOND LINCOLN - BERRY STORE
- (16) HILL- McNAMAR STORE
- (17) PETER LUKINS SHOEMAKER
- (18) DR. REGNIER'S CABIN
- (19) BALE'S CARDING HOUSE
- (20) TRENT BROTHER'S CABIN

- (21) PHILEMON MORRIS TANNER
- (22) ALEXANDER WADDELL HATTER
- (23) ROBT. JOHNSON WHEELWRIGHT
- (24) HENRY ONSTOTT'S CABIN AND COOPER SHOP
- (25) JACK KELSO'S CABIN
- (26) MILLER'S CABIN AND BLACKSMITH SHOP
- (27) ROAD TO CLARY'S GROVE
- (28) GRAHAM'S SCHOOL - CHURCH
- (29) THE OLD CEMETARY
- (30) R. J. ONSTOTT BORN HERE IN 1830

When New Salem was restored, the buildings or cabins were located from deeds or the discovery of their foundations. When these means were lacking, identification was made from several existing maps or drawings of the village. One such drawing of the village is reproduced above. This drawing was made by an artist named Brown, under the direction of R. J. Onstott. Mr. Onstott was born in one of the cabins in the village in 1830.



"Election day was August 4, and I took the day off. I had my heart set on winning and I was worried about my chances. I need not have fretted, because the people chose to send me as their representative to the legislature with a very flattering majority of votes.

"Another incident which was quite pleasing to me occurred on September 30; I was engaged to make my first town survey—that of New Boston on the Mississippi.

"The good things which had befallen me came to a sudden end. The notes that I had signed, given, or taken now became due. In October, 1834, Berry and I were made parties to two judgements which we could not pay. The sheriff levied on our personal possessions. He took my horse, saddle, bridle, and surveying instruments. This action deprived me of my means of making a living. The people of New Salem knew this and what did they do? William Greene arranged for me to get my horse back and "Uncle Jimmy" Short bought my things when they were put up for sale and left them at Rutledge's Tavern for me. This is why I like to come back here. These people were good to me, even the womenfolk. They always set something out for me if they thought I was hungry and sewed tight the loose buttons, or put a few stitches into a tear on my pants or shirt.

"In the latter part of November I prepared to leave for the State Legislature. However, having been sold out by the sheriff just a month before, I had no money. Coleman Smoots, one of my friends, knew that I needed money and offered me a loan of \$200. I bought a suit of clothes and paid my most pressing debts. I took the stage through to Vandalia and answered roll call at the opening session on December 1, 1834. Being a new member and unfamiliar with procedure, I took only a minor part in activities. I was in attendance throughout the session. My main interest was in the behind-the-scenes action of the lobbyist and the trading of votes that occurred among the legislators. I observed and learned more about law making from the halls at Vandalia than the chambers.

"While at Vandalia, I received word that Berry had died on January 10, 1835. This left me now owing the total debt of our partnership. This amount was so large that I often referred to it as my "National Debt."

"I also found at Vandalia something of more importance than the legislative activity. It was the people I met. I had never worked with people like them before. For the most part they were men of wealth, education, and affairs. I saw men express certain human qualities such as breeding, charm and culture. Because of my limited background, I had never seen people express such things before.

"The Ninth General Assembly's session ended February 13, 1835, and I returned to New Salem. I immediately went to work at the post office and surveying. I had made up my mind that despite

the apparent advantages of the people I had met at Vandalia, I would work until I made myself a competent lawyer. Therefore, I read law and more law night and day throughout the spring, summer and fall.

"During the summer of 1835, there was much sickness. At times I helped nurse families. Miss Ann Rutledge was taken ill early in the summer and passed away August 25, 1835.

"Soon it was time for me to leave the post office, surveying, and studies for the continuance of the ninth session of the General Assembly. I arrived at Vandalia just after Thanksgiving and returned to New Salem after the final session closed on February 1, 1836.

"I was again busy with the post office, my studies, and on February 17, started a re-survey of the town of Petersburg. The Post Office Department notified me of the transfer of the New Salem office to Petersburg on May 30, 1836. I was pretty well pre-occupied at this time with politics and had again announced my candidacy as a representative to the 1836-1837 session of the legislature.

"On June 13, I wrote a letter to the editor of the Sangamo Journal which set out my political views on various local issues and even went so far as to announce who I was voting for as President of the United States. I campaigned vigorously for this election and made many speeches.

"Election day brought many people to New Salem. The turnout at the polls was encouraging. The results of the election were almost unbelievable, because the Democrats had previously been in control in Sangamon County, and now, we the Whigs, had gained control. At this election the people of Sangamon County sent seven representatives including myself, and two senators to the Tenth General Assembly at Vandalia.

"Finishing my studies and feeling qualified to practice law, I applied in Springfield, for my license on September 9, 1836.

"When the Tenth General Assembly met for the first time on December 5, they immediately dubbed the nine legislators from Sangamon County the "Long Nine". The reason being that we averaged more than six feet in height and over two hundred pounds in weight. Before the Tenth General Assembly of 1836-1837 became history, we were not only noted for our height and weight, but for the influence we as a group were supposed to exert over the assembly. I think the public blamed all the bad laws that were passed during this assembly on the "Long Nine" from Sangamon County. In all truthfulness, the Tenth General Assembly did embark on a wild spending spree immediately after it convened. It passed laws and appropriated money for vast internal improvements. These improvements were related to transportation in Illinois consisting of building canals and railroads and improving rivers. The Sangamon Delegates were not so interested in internal improvements—we wanted

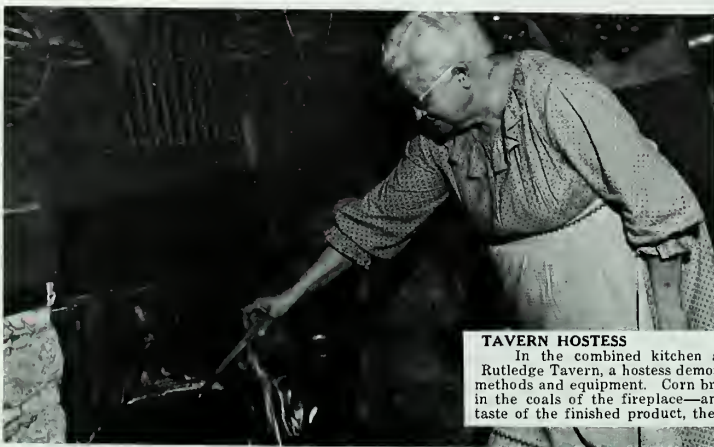
the State Capitol moved to Springfield. We wanted it so bad that we traded our votes on internal improvements for votes to place the capitol at Springfield. When it came to a vote on February 28, 1837, Springfield became the new State Capitol of Illinois.

"While I was in Vandalia, I received my certificate of admission to the bar from the Supreme Court of Illinois. The Tenth General Assembly adjourned on March 15, and I returned to New Salem.

"How well I remember returning to New Salem with the certificate rolled up in my pocket. As I walked along the streets, I could see an empty cabin here and there. Springfield was now the capital, and it offered two things that New Salem could not; the chance for a wider legal and political career. On April 15, 1837, I said goodbye to my many friends, mounted my horse and rode out of New Salem for Springfield. . . . .

Mr. Lincoln stopped talking and inclined his head as if listening. . . he asked me, "Do you hear the stage coming? Yes, it is coming. One cannot mistake the sound of the stage as the horses break into a run for Rutledge's Tavern. I must be going, for I am taking the stage. I hope that you have enjoyed my New Salem." He turned and I watched him go up the street toward the tavern. . . just before he disappeared from sight, it seemed that I could hear hundreds of people shouting, laughing, and calling his name. Something touched my shoulder and I looked up. The street in front of me was filled with shouting and laughing girl scouts and their leaders. Standing in front of me was a little blonde girl about nine or ten. I said, "Hi, what's your name?" She said, "Nancy," and then asked, "Do they sell film for cameras at the store over there?" I said, "Yes they do." As she turned to go, I noticed that the sun stood high over the trees that rimmed the village.

This story is based on the personal impressions of the people who knew Mr. Lincoln in New Salem. These include John Hanks, who travelled with Mr. Lincoln on a flatboat to New Orleans; Mentor Graham, who taught him grammar, mathematics, and surveying; Mr. Onstott, who watched the Lincoln-Armstrong wrestling match; Ossian Ross of Havana, who carried mail to and from the post-office; R. B. Rutledge, who heard Mr. Lincoln when he spoke before the New Salem Debating Society; Rowan Herndon, who started Mr. Lincoln in his first business and at whose home he boarded; A. Y. Ellis, who was interested in politics and accompanied Mr. Lincoln on many of his election campaigns about Sangamon County; and John T. Stuart, Stephen T. Logan, and William Herndon who later formed law partnerships with Mr. Lincoln.



#### TAVERN HOSTESS

In the combined kitchen and living room of the Rutledge Tavern, a hostess demonstrates frontier cooking methods and equipment. Corn bread is made and baked in the coals of the fireplace—and if you would like a taste of the finished product, there are samples for all.

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July 9, 1967

# New Salem Tells Lincoln Story

Third in a series on places to go and things to see in northern and central Illinois.

BY SEL YACKLEY

A stillness hangs over a log-cabin village 20 miles northwest of Springfield.

In this village, New Salem, Abraham Lincoln spent his young manhood. New Salem was abandoned, then carefully reconstructed just as it was when the raw-boned youth clerked in a grocery store, fell in love, and began studying law.

## Speaks in Measured Voice

New Salem speaks to the visitor in century-old tones.

To share in this mood one should walk where Lincoln walked, and sit quietly where he may have once meditated. He should stroll thru the streets lined with log cabins, see the covered wagons and instruments used those days. The postoffice where Lincoln was postmaster still stands in its modest glory; so does the store where he worked.

In 1831, the gangling youth had paddled his canoe from Decatur down the Sangamon river with no definite objectives in mind when he arrived at New Salem. It was in this settlement, however, that he began making friends and shaping his future. The women of New Salem fed him, the men gathered to hear him spin a yarn, and then in 1834, they elected him to the state legislature as their representative.

Springfield, the capital of Illinois, is the prairie town Lincoln loved so much. His name is on street signs over building en-

trances and intertwined with pioneer Sangamon county families.

When the legislature is in session, Springfield jumps with political leaders, lobbyists, and official visitors.

Lincoln helped make Springfield the new capital of Illinois in 1837, replacing Vandalia. When state documents were moved from Vandalia he moved along with them to make Springfield his home.

Here he met and married Mary Todd, who was visiting relatives from her home in Lexington, Ky., and bought the only house he ever owned.

## He Heard the News There

The house stands today on the northeast corner of 8th and Jackson streets, beautifully preserved just as it was when a formal committee came to its living room in 1861 to announce officially that Abraham Lincoln had been elected the 16th President of the United States. It is always open, without charge.

At the depot where the Presidential train pulled out to take the Lincoln family to the White House, the visitor should stand quietly and think how the crowd stood in a cold, February drizzle to hear his sad farewell speech.

"... to this place I owe everything," he said. "... I leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return."

Today, Lincoln is back in his Springfield. He rests on a little knoll in Oak Ridge cemetery, placed there at the request of Mrs. Lincoln when his life was cut short at the age of 56 by an assassin's bullet.

The stately white marble tomb with its 117-foot spire reflects the simple dignity of the man it honors. Inside, a circular rotunda with statuettes and inscriptions illustrating periods in Lincoln's career, leads to the cenotaph.

Around the rose-colored marble crypt are the state flags of three in the Union which "claim" him proudly: Ken-

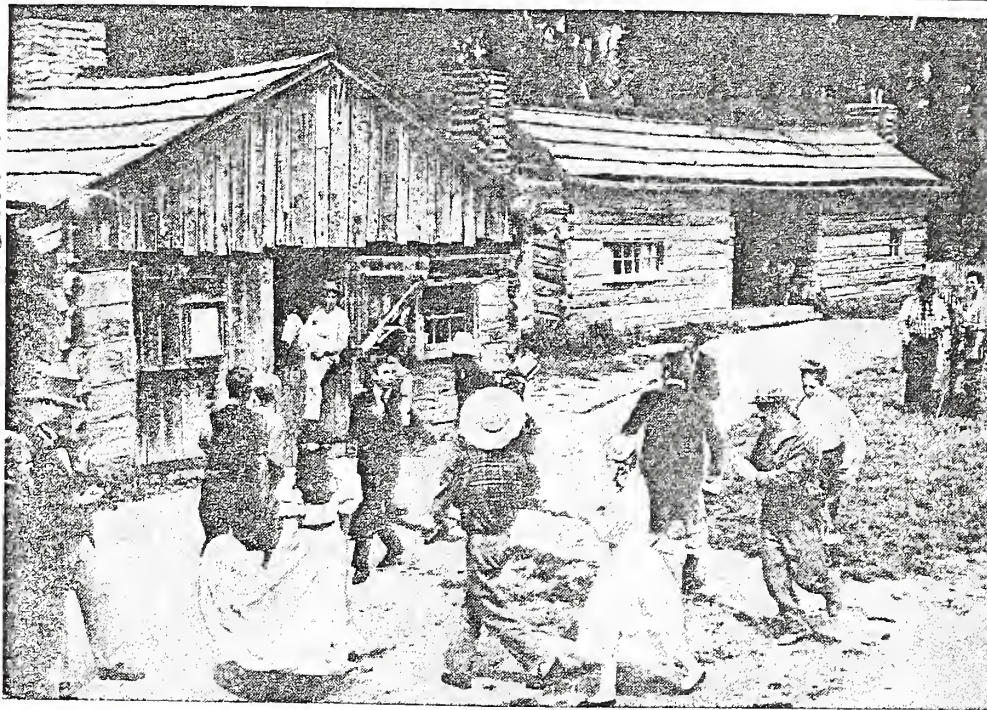
tucky where he was born, Indiana where he grew to manhood, and Illinois which "gave him to the nation."

Over a north window are inscribed the words spoken by Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton at Lincoln's death:

"Now he belongs to the ages."

[Next week: A visit to Freeport.]





**SQUARE DANCE**—Dressed in costumes of the Abraham Lincoln era, New Salem residents do the square dance on Main street. Lincoln spent his young manhood in New Salem and began a law career there.





# NEW SALEM: WHERE LINCOLN LIVED

*By James R. Olt*

**T**HE VILLAGE OF NEW SALEM, a short drive northwest of Springfield, Illinois, takes the traveler back into another century and along a road dusty with dreams long settled.

It is an authentic restoration of the little town where Abraham Lincoln lived from 1831 to 1837. Here 23 log cabins, including 10 shops, the carding mill, schoolhouse, sawmill, gristmill and the Rutledge Tavern, have been reproduced. Still standing is the original Onstot Cooper shop, where Lincoln studied at night.

A museum exhibits relics associated with Lincoln and other early residents, and spinning, candle-making, early cooking, the blacksmith's art and other pioneer skills are demonstrated there and in the various cabins.

Atop the hill at the entrance to the village stands a nine-foot bronze statue of the young Lincoln, gift of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers, in the spot where Lincoln may have taken his last look at New Salem before he rode away on a borrowed horse toward immortality.

Lincoln's New Salem years gave him his first experience in community living. Half the women in town fed him and mended his pants and shirts in return for baby-tending or a good yarn. One man taught him grammar, another surveying. Still another trapper, fisherman and dreamer led him into the delights of poetry in Shakespeare and Burns.

Here he tried many ways of earning a living—farm work and woodcutting; store clerking and store keeping; mail handling and surveying.

From New Salem he marched away, a Captain of Volunteers, to the Black Hawk War. Upon his return he plunged into politics and

was elected to the state legislature. He began to study law on his own, and by 1836 was admitted to the bar.

Ironically, as Lincoln's star began to ascend, the village of New Salem began to decline. By 1836, steamboats could no longer navigate up the Sangamon. In 1836 the Post Office was closed and moved to nearby Petersburg. By 1840 New Salem had ceased to exist.

Its restoration began in 1906, when William Randolph Hearst lectured the Old Salem Chautauqua Association, which was organized in 1897. After his speech Hearst visited the site where New Salem had once stood. He was so impressed with the historical value of the place that he purchased a 62-acre tract containing the site of the settlement for \$11,000 and conveyed it in trust to the Salem Chautauqua Association. In 1917, the citizens of Petersburg organized the Old Salem Lincoln League and began to raise funds for the restoration in 1918.

The Illinois State Legislature took over the 62-acre tract in 1919 and made it a state park. In 1932, the work of restoration was begun after several years of painstaking research. First, the old lots were relocated from deeds and survey marks. Exact locations of the cabins were determined from old excavations, cellars, foundations and pieces of brick and mortar.

The cabins and other buildings have been reconstructed with nearly perfect historical accuracy. The terrain of the New Salem bluff has changed somewhat in over a century, and some ravines were filled.

The state began collecting articles and furnishings for the buildings







*(From right, clockwise) the New Salem Museum; square dancing on the main street; girls in period costumes, making candles; oxen pulling a Conestoga wagon, and statue at the entrance to New Salem Park depicting Lincoln as he left the small village to start a new life.*



when it took over restoration. Descendants of the pioneers who settled in Mason and Menard counties furnished nearly a thousand articles, some actually used in New Salem. Not one was purchased. Chairs, bedsteads, cooking utensils, farm equipment, trunks, gun hooks, bottles, wagons and mill machinery all are authentic relics of the place and time.

Late in a summer's evening in New Salem it is easy to imagine the shadowy figures among the cabins, tending livestock, chopping wood or coming out of Rutledge's Tavern. Mentor Graham, Jack Armstrong, Bowling Green, Jack Kelso, the Clary's Grove Boys . . . they all lived in this little pioneer settlement and had a part in shaping the destiny of the man who became for all men the undying symbol of freedom.





## Lincoln's New Salem

# A Memorial or Disgrace?

[Continued from page 1]

its most famous son?"

A few months ago Hammar visited the home of Mark Twain in Hannibal, Mo., and "we found everything well cared for, houses in fine shape, grounds well kept." From there he drove to Lincoln's New Salem village in Illinois.

"I must say I was very much disappointed," said Hammar. "Trying to see the village, we walked in dust ankle-high. The buildings seem to have no care whatsoever. . . . Some of the priceless antiques were so dirty it was a disgrace to have them on display."

A TRIBUNE reporter-photographer team visited the state park and memorial and found conditions much as Hammar described them.

Lincoln's New Salem village has a bare and trampled appearance. The 23 log cabins and buildings that make up this restored community of the 1830s sit in virtual dust bowls of hard-packed dirt that turns to mud when it rains.

Roads, footpaths and the log cabins have a uniform dusty look, reminiscent of the hot land dry ghost towns of the American West. Brochures issued by the Illinois Department of Conservation describe the village as "probably the most impressive of Lincoln memorials."

"Little has been done to the village in the last five years," said Bill Hand. "We're approaching irreversible damage; the foundations are coming out." Hand should know. He is the assistant park ranger in charge of the village.

"We are not giving our visitors a well-kept park, adequate paths and roads or adequate tours," said Hand. "We are not doing justice to the potential here."

No one denies that the makings of an outstanding tribute to Lincoln exist at New Salem village. Even in its present condition, it drew 988,215 visitors last year and ranked fifth in state park attendance. But that was down from the million-plus attendance of 1968 and 1969.

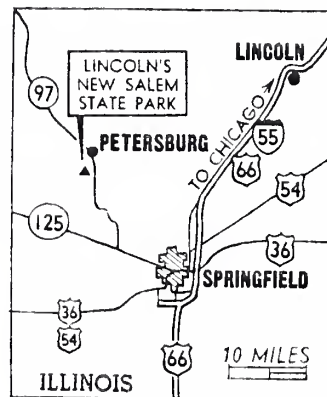
With that many people milling around, it sometimes is difficult to put yourself in the right frame of mind and think for a minute that Abraham Lincoln walked this ground and lived in a little Scotch-Irish settlement at that location from 1831 to 1837. The village itself existed from 1829 to 1839.

Lincoln spent some of his most important formative years there, working as a clerk, a storekeeper, postmaster and a deputy surveyor. He also studied grammar, mathematics and law while living there.

Visions of Lincoln living, working and studying there can make the 1½-mile walk thru the 60-acre rustic village fascinating.

A path lined with weathered split-rail fences leads past the assortment of log cabins, stores, mills, shops and a tavern with shake roofs. Only one building, the Henry Onstot home and cooper shop is an original, built in 1834. Lincoln supposedly studied at night by the light of a fire burning cooper's shavings in this building.

All the other structures in the village are reproductions placed on their original sites and furnished with articles of Lincoln's time, some of them actually used by the New Salem folk of that period. Other attractions are live-



stock, a covered wagon and a museum.

At the Rutledge Tavern visitors are likely to meet Miss Pauline M. Shafer, 66, a park guide for 11 years, who sits in the tavern and delivers a lively account of the life in those days when Lincoln roomed in the attic loft of the tavern building for two years.

Lincoln paid 12½ cents a night to sleep in the loft, which served as sleeping quarters for the men guests, said Miss Shafer, who dresses in clothes of the pioneer period. He also paid 15 cents for meals. Menus of the day showed the tavern served prairie chicken and noodles with plum jam and bread for dessert.

There are 12,000 authentic early 19th century articles in the various cabins and buildings of the Lincoln shrine. They figured in a controversy in 1969, when the Illinois Conservation Department announced that an inventory showed that 110 Lincoln-era relics donated to the state park were missing. A dollar value has never been placed on the missing items.

All remaining articles, including the log cabins, have been numbered for inventory purposes, said Ronald D. Johnson, superintendent of parks and memorials, who

indicated there is still a security problem.

"One of the troubles we have is as soon as we say something is authentic from Lincoln's time, it disappears," said Johnson. Thefts still occur, he said, and added somewhat cryptically, "but mysterious disappearance is avoided."

Something new at the park this year is a radio sound system expected to go into operation June 20. Visitors can rent a headset for 50 cents. As visitors approach an exhibit, the headset picks up a radioed recorded message explaining the meaning of the exhibit. There will be 23 exhibits interpreted in this way.

There are special events to liven the interest in Lincoln's New Salem, such as the open house today and Sept. 12. Demonstrations in pioneer crafts such as candle dipping, rail-splitting, spinning wool, running a carding mill and blacksmithing are the attractions, including folk singing. There is no charge.

Lincoln plays usually are performed in the nearby Kelso Hollow amphitheater the last week of August and the first week of September. There are 20 acres of picnic grounds and 193 camping sites in the 487-acre park.

A privately operated lodge at the entrance of New Salem State Park offers rooms at \$10 to \$12 single and \$12 to \$16 double.

Warren Masten, acting park ranger, described lack of supervision and control over visiting school groups as one of the major park problems. On a single peak day last year, 120 busloads of youngsters visited the park altho the average is closer to 50 to 80 busloads during the school season.

Without clearly defined paths and roads in the park,





Visitors to the Rutledge tavern at New Salem are likely to meet Miss Pauline M. Shafer, a park guide who delivers a lively account of life in Lincoln's day.



School children by the thousands visit Lincoln's New Salem State Park near Springfield, Ill. Young Abe Lincoln lived in New Salem from 1831 to 1837, but today's New Salem is a reproduction of the village. Paths flanked by split-rail fences lead past log cabins, stores, mills, shops and a tavern



Lincoln's New Salem, the leading Illinois memorial to its favorite son, has a run-down neglected look. Even park officials agree that "we are not giving our visitors a well-kept park, adequate paths and roads or adequate tours."

the youngsters often climb over exhibits and storm the cabins from all directions. This onslaught is followed in the summer by thousands of sightseers, picnickers and campers, some of whom leave the camping area during the night and prowl thru the village when it is closed to the public.

Park officials agree there is a great need for a clearly defined pathway to guide visitors thru the park, as well as keep them off areas vulnerable to erosion and destruction. Uncontrolled use of the park is contributing to its run-down appearance.

• • •

Hand disclosed that five inches of dirt must be replaced around the cabins each year to replace what has been trampled into dust or washed away by rain.

There is no separate budget for village upkeep, Hand said. Funds come from a general budget for the entire park. He said there should be a fund earmarked for New Salem village upkeep alone.

Johnson agreed that much of Lincoln's New Salem village is unsightly and not the kind of place Illinois can offer with pride to visitors.



This is New Salem at its pastoral best.

(TRIBUNE Staff Photos by Walter Neal)

His opinion was supported by Richard Brown and his wife, Jeannie, of 4839 W. 23d Pl., Cicero. They were on their first visit to New Salem Park.

"There should be a better job of keeping up the grounds," said Brown, when asked his first impression of the park. He noted the absence of grass and vegetation in parts of the village.

Brown liked the rustic look of the cabins, saying they reflect the primitive and backwoodsman character of Lincoln. But he thought the surroundings could not have been so barren in Lincoln's time.

Brown also thought there should be a large map at the entrance to the village, so visitors can get directions and tell where the village ends. He also believes Illinois should consider charging a small fee for admission to the park, the money to be used for park upkeep.

Four men, plus two carpenters comprise the maintenance force at the village, said Hand. There is some extra help for 2½ months during the summer but not in winter; the park is open all year.

"If they want the park to be in a rustic setting, it takes more people and more money all the time," said Hand. "We are not dealing with concrete but with grass and dirt. It will take a tremendous amount of money to restore the village if we don't do something about it now.

"It is the No. 1 attraction of the Illinois State Park system. Someone has to come to the aid of the park."

Next week: Northern Illinois state parks.



This is the school and church in New Salem.



# Lincoln's New Salem:

Fourth in a series on Illinois State Parks.



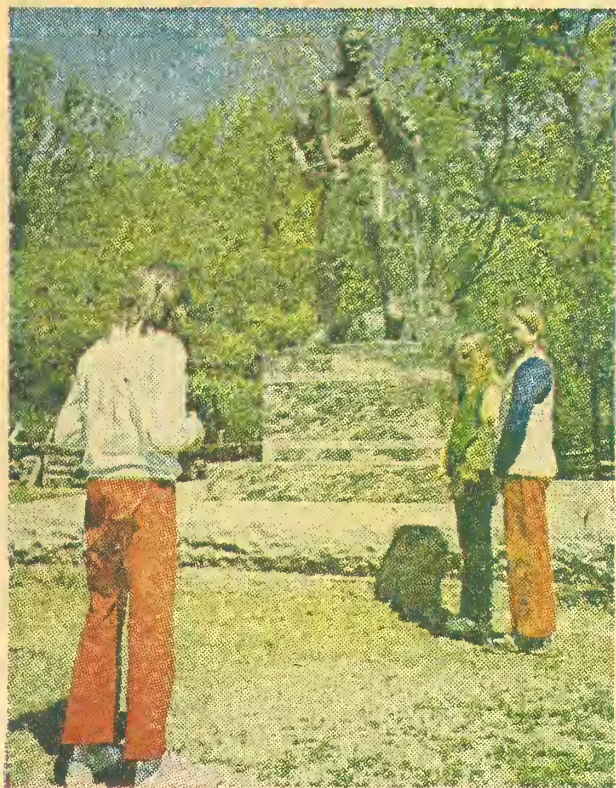
By  
Casey  
Bukro  
Environment  
Editor

**A** BRAHAM LINCOLN saved the Union, but who will save Lincoln's New Salem State Park?

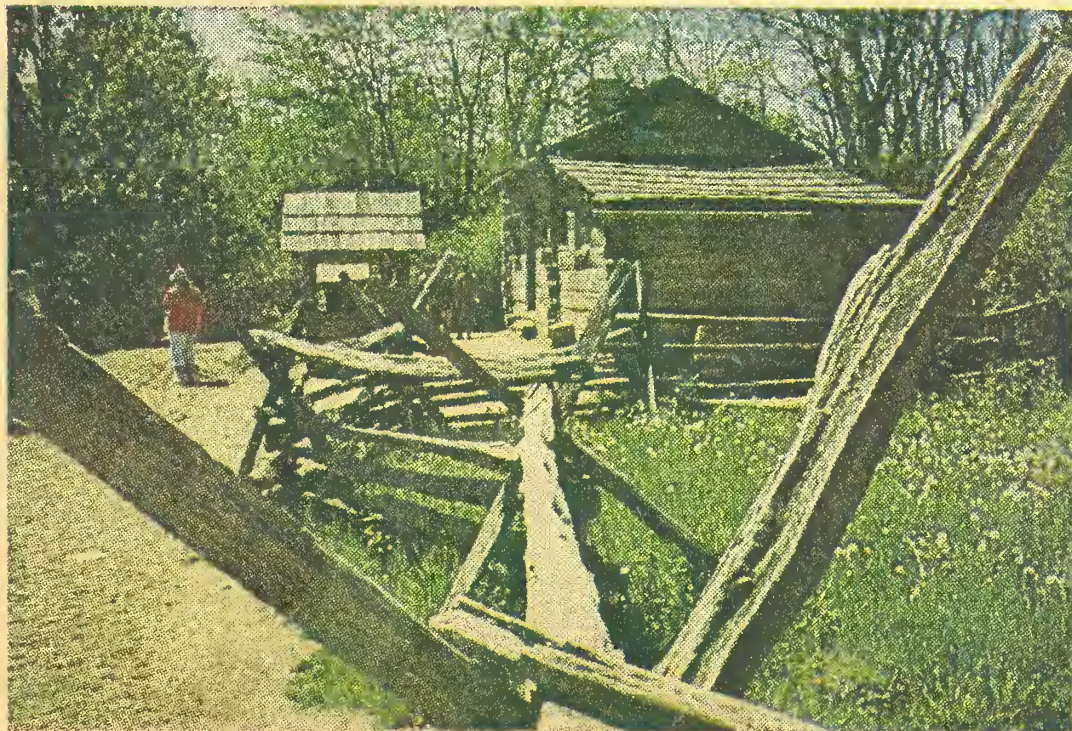
Ask visitors about their first impressions of the leading memorial to Lincoln, and they say it looks run down and neglected. Some are more expressive, such as Karl J. Hammar of Escanaba, Mich.

"What's the matter with Illinois?" he asked in a letter to THE TRIBUNE after visiting Lincoln's New Salem Park, 19 miles northwest of Springfield in Menard County. "Is this the way it treats

[Continued on page 8]



*Statue of Abe Lincoln at New Salem.*



*Split-rail fence frames log cabins at Illinois' New Salem State Park.*



# ***A Park in Trouble***



*Fish-eye lens captures New Salem as it must have looked when young Abe Lincoln lived there.*

(Tribune Staff Photos by Walter Neal)



## Report on New Salem

New Salem State Park looks "run down and neglected." The 23 log cabins of this restored community of the 1830s "sit in virtual dust bowls of hard packed dirt that turns to mud when it rains." Some of the cabin foundations need repairs. Adequate security to protect the thousands of items of 19th century Americana is a problem.

These conditions were reported by our environment editor, Casey Bukro, after a recent visit to the pioneer central Illinois community where Abraham Lincoln lived, worked, and studied as a young man. Mr. Bukro quotes a ranger in charge of the village as warning that this unique park, reconstructed as a memorial to Lincoln, is "approaching irreversible damage."

The New Salem report is one of a series of articles on conditions of Illinois state parks appearing Sundays in THE TRIBUNE's travel section.

No doubt the report will be disturbing to citizens of this state, which takes particular pride in the Lincoln heritage. In appraising conditions at New Salem, however, it is worth noting that this was not a model community, even by the

standards of its time, but a raw frontier village. Visitors should not expect to find paved streets and sidewalks and formal flower gardens, nor should they mind a little dust or mud on their shoes if that goes with keeping the reproduction faithful to the original.

Of course, there is no excuse for permitting cabins to fall into disrepair. Nor is there any excuse for lax supervision and control over crowds, who mar exhibits and contribute to the park's run-down appearance. The New Salem of Lincoln's day didn't have to contend with a million visitors a year swarming thru it and disturbing the landscape.

It is encouraging to note from Mr. Bukro's articles that park officials are aware of these defects. The amount of money and effort needed to keep the structures and grounds in good condition should not be great. New Salem is certainly one of the state's better known and more impressive parks, and the necessary funds should be readily forthcoming under the Ogilvie administration's much publicized program to expand and revitalize the state park system.

# Urges saving of Berry home

Dear Editor,

Illinois is called "The Land of Lincoln," but are we ignoring the man who made that nickname possible?

In the Rock Creek area, just south of Petersburg, the remains of history stand, soon to be doomed forever. Abraham Lincoln stayed in the home of the Rev. John Berry many nights. The Rev. Berry founded the first Presbyterian church in the area. His son, William Berry, was Abraham Lincoln's business partner at New Salem.

New Salem has been reconstructed to how it was in Mr. Lincoln's time, but only one out of 23 buildings is an original. However, the major structure of the Berry home still stands today. It was roofed over and converted into a cattle barn. The current owner is presently planning to tear it down this spring to give him a little more room to plant corn.

Lincoln's New Salem has been awarded over one half million dollars to put up a 4,600-foot fence, buy a few homes in Pritchettville (a small community on the Sangamon River), and make other minor im-

provements. The fence is being put up to prevent vandals from breaking into the museum or one of the log homes.

I feel this fence is not needed. First of all, no fence will deter a vandal. It will only provide him a greater challenge. Secondly, only security personnel will deter a vandal, and the present watchmen prove that. There has been no major break-in for years. Lastly, in a historical area the fence would be ugly, as well as damage the natural habitat of the wild animals in the area.

The Rev. Berry's home is more important to New Salem and this state than any home in Pritchettville. His home has much historical importance.

As an Illinois taxpayer I would rather see the money used to purchase and restore the Berry home and make major repairs on the New Salem homes, which are so badly needed. This would truly Build Illinois, for New Salem has the potential of being an internationally known living historic museum such as Williamsburg. The money would then be invested to build Illinois tourism.

I urge your readers to write their state senator and representative and express their view on the subject.

Sincerely,  
John G. O'Brien III  
Petersburg

The State Journal -  
Register,  
(Springfield, Ill.)  
Feb. 22, 1987





Don Davenport photos

New Salem State Historic Site transports visitors back to the 1830s.



Costumed interpreters at the site demonstrate pioneer folkways, such as basketweaving.

expired, the log building was discovered in 1922 in nearby Petersburg and returned to its original site. It was here that Abraham Lincoln often studied, feeding the fire with wood shavings as he read late into the night.

Just behind the Cooper Shop is the reconstructed log schoolhouse where Mentor Graham taught school. It was Graham who helped Lincoln with his studies of English and surveying.

A ways down the street are two stores that Lincoln operated in partnership with William Berry.

Near the east end of the village is the Rutledge Tavern, owned by James Rutledge. Lincoln lore says that Rutledge's daughter, Ann, was the one true love of Lincoln's life. True or not, he was devastated by grief when she died at 22.

Behind the tavern is the New Salem Museum Store, which sells

19th Century craft reproductions by Illinois artisans.

A variety of special events scheduled for this summer and fall add spice to New Salem's 1830s flavor. A Heritage Quilt Show in June features demonstrations and displays of new and antique quilts in the visitors center and the village. June also brings Heartland Chautauqua, with evening tent shows that include music and portrayals of William Jennings Bryan, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Andrew Carnegie and others.

In July, Summer Festival reenacts a typical Illinois summer day in the 1830s. August's Prairie Tales features nationally acclaimed storytellers who combine music, drama and literature in their traditional stories. An October "Candlelight Tour" offers evening visits to New Salem's homes. During November's Harvest Feast, the ladies of the village will be busy preparing for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Picnic facilities are located near the pioneer village. There's also a campground with 200 campsites. The Lincoln League Souvenir Shop, near the visitors center, has a bookstore, a fast-food restaurant and souvenir shop.

Nearby Petersburg was also prominent in Lincoln's life during his New Salem years. Lincoln surveyed the village in 1836; the starting point of his survey is marked at Seventh and Jackson Streets. Original Lincoln documents are displayed in the Menard County Court House on the village square. Ann Rutledge and other New Salem pioneers are buried in Petersburg's Oakland Cemetery.

## Details on New Salem

**Getting there:** Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site is located 20 miles northwest of Springfield on Illinois Highway 97.

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Heartland Chautauqua will be held at 7 p.m. June 24-29 in a tent nearby.

**Camping:** Campsites (with electricity) are available for \$8 to \$11 per night.

**Accessibility:** The New Salem Visitor Center, Lincoln League Souvenir Shop, Kelso Hollow Amphitheater and New Salem Museum Store are wheelchair accessible. Paved pathways lead throughout the village. Most of the pioneer buildings have a step or two.

**Information:** Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, R.R. 1, Box 244 A, Petersburg, Ill. 62675; 217-632-4000.

Petersburg Chamber of Commerce; 125 S. 7th St., Box 425, Petersburg, Ill. 62675; 217-632-7363.

D.D.



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# New Salem anew

Summer kicks off with amphitheater, special events, expanded entertainment

By Don Davenport  
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

**P**ETERSBURG, Ill.—Boasting a new outdoor amphitheater, a full calendar of music and drama, and an assortment of special events, Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site offers a widely expanded entertainment schedule this summer.

The inaugural season of Theater in the Park Productions debuts in a new 500-seat, state-of-art amphitheater in Kelso Hollow, at the edge of the log cabin village where Abraham Lincoln lived from 1831 to 1837. The season runs from June 6 through Aug. 25, with 46 performances ranging from music to folk humor to Lincoln lore productions.

Theater in the Park's opening presentation is "Quilters," a moving musical drama about frontier and valued friendships.

Other theater productions include "Sunflower Country," a musical play celebrating rural life, and "Visiting the Lincolns," a poignant re-creation of Abraham Lincoln's final days. Musical performances will include big band, jazz, classical, country and western, and Broadway show tunes. Other shows will feature puppetry, magic, history and literature.

Standing on a wooded bluff above the Sangamon River, Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site is a reconstruction of the village where Abraham Lincoln spent his early adulthood. During the six years Lincoln lived here, he clerked in a store, chopped wood, enlisted as a soldier in the Black Hawk War of 1832, served as postmaster and deputy surveyor, and failed in business.

He first tested the Illinois political waters at New Salem and, in 1834, was elected to the Illinois General Assembly. While living in New Salem, Lincoln began to study law. And it was here that he met and, according to tradition, fell in love with young Ann Rutledge.

Lincoln left New Salem in 1837 to practice law in Springfield. Two years later, the nearby community of Petersburg was named the county seat of Menard County. New Salem withered and died.

But Lincoln's fame, and the Old Salem Chautauqua Association, whose summer meetings and programs brought people to the area, kept interest in New Salem alive. In 1906, newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst purchased the land containing the site and gave it to the association.

The Old Salem Lincoln League, founded in 1917 to carry on research, located several cabin sites and old roads. In 1919, the site was presented to the state of Illinois to develop as a state park.

After years of extensive research and archeological investigation, meticulous recreation of New Salem was begun in 1932. Archeological investigation, along with periodic additions and changes in the village, continues to this day.

Begin your New Salem tour at the Visitor Center, where a brief orientation film provides an overview of the village and Lincoln's days here. Exhibits are arranged in a unique "time walk" that leads through the village's history. The surveying instruments and saddle bags that Lincoln used during his New Salem days are displayed, along with a chair he is said to have repaired. There are numerous items used by village residents of Lincoln's time and exhibits documenting the rediscovery and reconstruction of New Salem.

Then hop aboard one of the free, horse-drawn shuttles or walk down the path into the village and step back 150 years in time. Wood smoke scents the prairie air, oxen and horses graze in pastures, gardens are planted as they were in the 1830s. Costumed interpreter staff the log homes, stores and businesses, performing the daily



Don Davenport photos

The pioneer village at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site transports visitors back to the 1830s.



The statue "Lincoln, Book and Ax" by Aavaard Fairbanks welcomes visitors to the site.

chores of the 1830s— weaving, spinning, cooking and blacksmithing—and explaining to visitors the skills and intricacies of their craft.

The pioneer village has nearly two dozen houses, shops, stores and industries, reproduced on their original sites and furnished with authentic, early 19th Century items such as wheat cradles, candle molds, cord beds, dough chests and early American pewter. Many items were actually used by New Salem residents when Lincoln lived here.

Walking New Salem's dusty streets is a stroll through the pages of history. Just inside the village entrance is the Onstot Cooper Shop, the only original structure left from New Salem. Moved away when the village



Costumed interpreters at the site demonstrate pioneer folkways, such as basketweaving.

expired, the log building was discovered in 1922 in nearby Petersburg and returned to its original site. It was here that Abraham Lincoln often studied, feeding the fire with wood shavings as he read late into the night.

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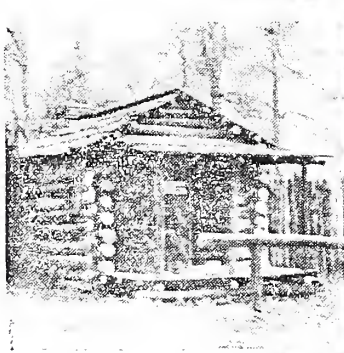
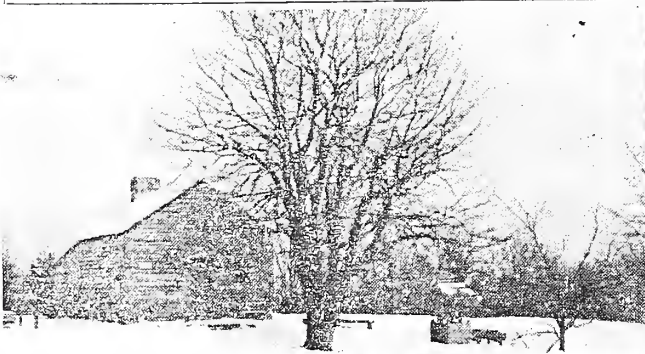
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## Memorials Mark Steps in the Career of Abraham Lincoln



knew and loved. Here is the old courthouse in which he practiced law, the business square with some of the buildings of his time, the great national memorial in the cemetery. Moreover, a growing memorial in the form of a 60-acre lakeside garden is being started to honor Springfield's greatest citizen, a project in which the Garden Club of Illinois is inviting the whole country to participate. Here are to be gathered the loveliest native trees and shrubs of the three home states of Lincoln. Springfield is a fitting city to mark the end of the pioneer trail that led one of its children out into the hearts of the world.

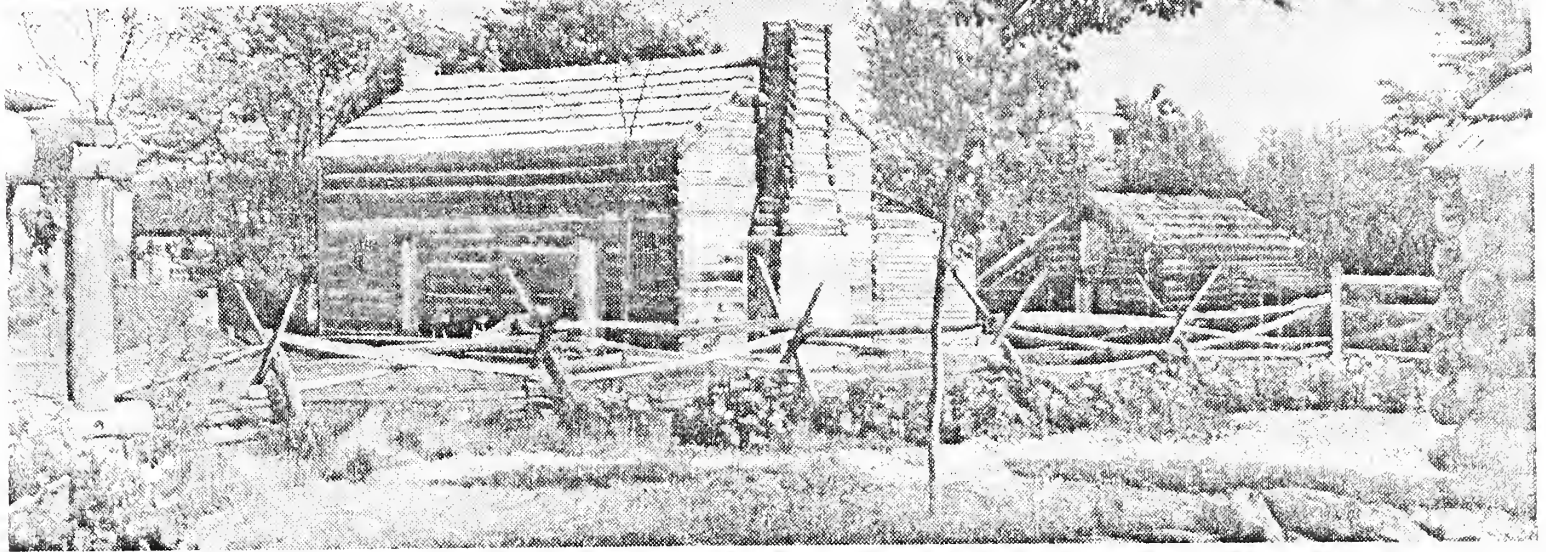
Lower Left: Courtesy of WPA; Lower Center: By a Staff Artist

### The Road That Led From Log Cabin to White House

The Lincoln-Berry Store, Now Restored, at New Salem, Ill., Is Pictured at the Upper Left. At the Upper Right is a Scene in the Lincoln Village at Rockport, Ind. Lower Left—Model of Judge Pitcher's Law Office in the Lincoln Village at Rockport. It Was to This Law Office That Abraham Lincoln as a Youth Is Said to Have Tramped 17 Miles to Borrow Books. Lower Center—Abraham Lincoln at His Studies. Lower Right—Memorial at Birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, in Which the Original Cabin Is Enclosed, at Hodgenville, Ky. A View From the Cabin of Lincoln's Parents at Sunken Spring Farm in Hodgenville Is Shown in the Inset



# Restoration of New Salem, Ill., Recaptures Abraham Lincoln's Formative Frontier Years



—The exterior of the Rutledge Tavern as it now stands in the restored New Salem. Probably built in the Fall of 1823 by James Rutledge, one of the founders of the town. Through the trees to the left can be seen a corner of the small museum which now houses much Lincolniana. Completeness of the restoration is seen in the woodpile, the shrubs and the "cold cellar." The job is a convincing one, visitors to the shrine have been unanimous in noting.

By ROBERT M. BOLTWOOD  
**I**T WAS on Dec. 25, more than 110 years ago that Samuel Hill became postmaster of the Illinois settlement which James Rutledge and John Camron had decided to call New Salem. Only the day before, James Pantier had purchased the first lot for \$12.50.

Postmaster Hill shared the troubles of other frontier postmasters, only his were slightly worse because he enraged the women of New Salem by selling liquor to their husbands instead of delivering the mail. Postal rates were determined by the number of pages and the geographical objectives of letters, so naturally the addressees had to pay.

But it is not primarily because of Postmaster Hill that Postmaster General James A. Farley will dedicate the post office in the restored Hill-McNamar store in the reconstructed village of New Salem on Monday, Feb. 12. Rather will it be because of an abnormally tall, homely young man of whom a contemporary wrote in 1835: "The Post Master is very careless about leaving his office open and unlocked during the day—half the time I go in and get my papers, etc., without anyone being there as was the case yesterday. The letter was only marked 25 and even if he had been there and known it was doctble, he would not have charged me more — luckily he is a very clever fellow and a particular friend of mine."

**T**HIS same negligent postmaster — this Jackson-appointed Clay supporter who served from May 7, 1833, to May 30, 1836—had a habit of reading other people's newspapers. He carried letters and papers in his hat and kept the postal receipts in an old blue sock in a wooden chest under the counter.

His name was Abraham Lincoln.

When Logan Hay, prominent Springfield lawyer and descendant of President Lincoln's private secretary, introduces the speakers to a local and nationwide radio audience on Lincoln's Birthday, he will be calling attention to one of the greatest monuments in American history—to what a writer once declared would be the Mount Vernon of the West. In turn Postmaster Farley, Gov. Henry Horner of Illinois, United States Senators James Slattery and Scott Lucas, and National Commander Raymond J. Kelly of the American Legion will contribute to making the New Salem occasion memorable.

For New Salem is not a cold marble or stone tribute to Abraham Lincoln. Nor does it eulogize in hard letters his progress from a log cabin in Kentucky to the White House.

New Salem stands today as it was when Lincoln lived there. It is a restored village. And to the visitor young Lincoln and his neighbors still live there.

**J**AMES RUTLEDGE and John Camron were pleased with the hill overlooking the Sangamon River at a point 20 miles northwest of Springfield. They constructed a dam and erected a combination saw and grist mill. Soon between 30 and 40 horses stood about each day while their masters traded and joked. In the Fall of 1829 Samuel Hill and John McNeil opened a store and Bill Clary began catering to demands for spirited beverages. There they were—a mill, a store, a saloon—and another pioneer American village had begun.

It was in the middle of April, 1831, that the dam built by Rutledge and Camron played another important role. A flatboat bound for New Orleans be-

came stranded on the dam, and it was worth the villagers' while to turn out and watch the four boatmen solve their problem. Obviously, Denton Offut, "who talked too much with his mouth," was the owner of the boat, while the remaining three worked for him.

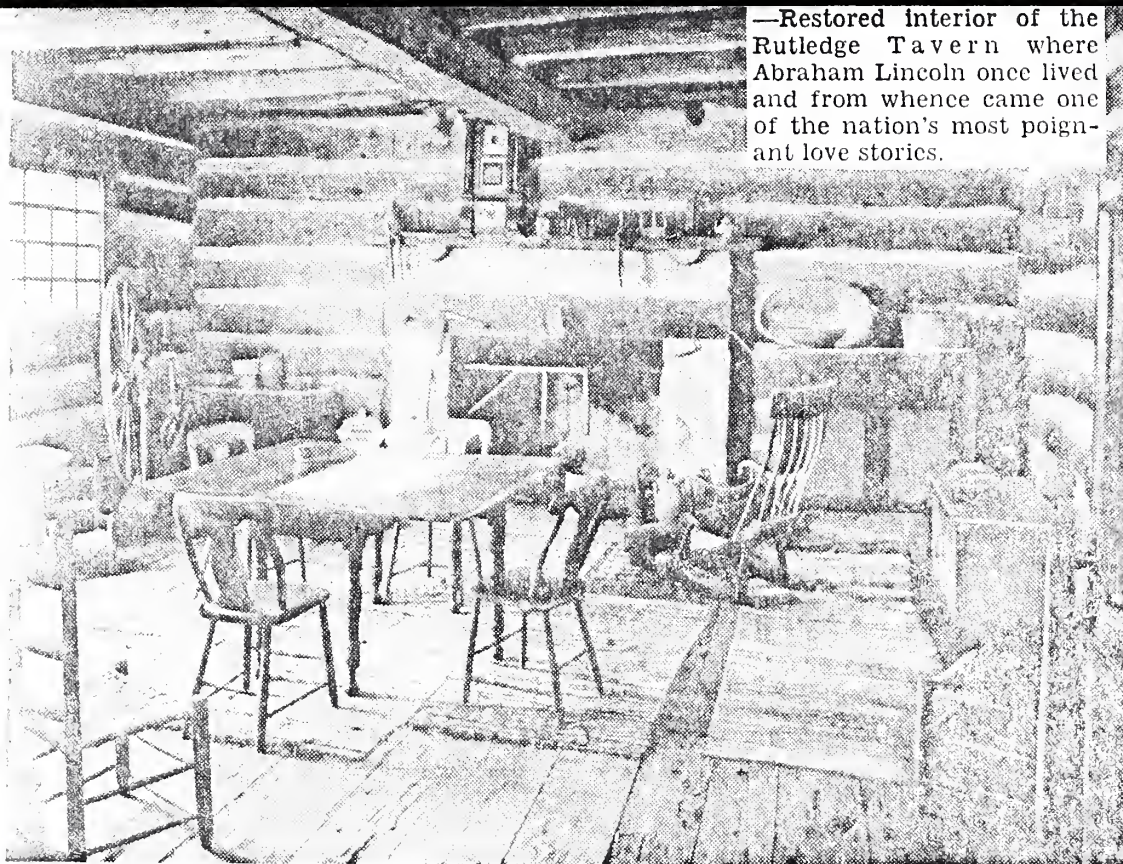
But the one called Abe—about 22 years old, standing over six feet and weighing close to 200 pounds—directed the work of his cousin John Hanks and his stepbrother John Johnston. This youth, who in his own words had reached the village like "a piece of floating driftwood," wore "a pair of blue jeans trowsers indefinitely rolled up, a cotton shirt, striped white and blue . . . and a buckeye-chip hat for which a demand of twelve and a half cents would have been exorbitant."

**A** STROLL around New Salem convinced Offut of the desirability of building a store there. Abe Lincoln would be his clerk.

At New Orleans the flatboat and its cargo were sold, after which Offut, Hanks, Johnston, and Lincoln went by steamboat to St. Louis, where Offut remained awhile to purchase some goods. Alone young Lincoln walked to New Salem, arriving there late in July, 1831. "Plain old Abe" was the unromantic form of reference employed by the eleven Camron daughters concerning the new boarder at their home.

At the time of Lincoln's arrival, about 95 persons lived in New Salem, while the population of Springfield was but a little over five hundred. From Clary's Grove, Little Grove, Sugar Grove, Irish Grove, Athens, and Indian Point came people to trade at New Salem.





—Restored interior of the Rutledge Tavern where Abraham Lincoln once lived and from whence came one of the nation's most poignant love stories.

Living conditions were by no means ideal in terms of modern demands, but somehow the settlers managed to survive. The Winter of 1830-31, for instance, had been especially harsh, with the temperature at 12 degrees below zero for many days and deep snow for nine weeks.

**W**OMAN'S work is never done, says the poet. And that was what a New Salem settler meant when he wrote that "a man can get corn and pork enough to last his family a fortnight for a single day's work, while a woman must keep scrubbing from morning till night the same in this country as in any other." An English traveller considered Central Illinois "a hard country for women and cattle."

Pioneer families were large, as Matthew Marsh knew when in a letter to his brother he mentioned "one objection to marrying in this state and that is, the women have such an everlasting number of children, 12 is the least number that can be counted on."

And it was Granny Spears of Clary's Grove who helped bring more than half those children into the New Salem community. "The fittest survived and the rest 'the Lord seen fitten to take away.'"

One-room log cabins were the rule in New Salem. Wrote someone regarding the one-room residence of that period: "At meal time it was all kitchen. On rainy days when all the neighbors came there to relate their exploits, how many deer and turkeys they had killed, it was the sitting room. On Sunday when the young men all dressed up in their jeans, and the young ladies in their best bow dresses, it was all parlor. At night it was all bedroom."

**T**HE presence of overnight guests necessitated sleeping on the floor. "All the family, of both sexes, with all the strangers who arrive, often lodge in the same room," remarked one of the New Salem residents. "In that case, the under garments are never taken off, and no consciousness of impropriety, of delicacy of feeling is manifested. A few pins, stuck in the wall of the cabin, display the dresses of the women and the hunting shirts of the men."

Offut's arrival prompted work on a retail store, which quickly arose on land costing \$10. About Sept. 1, Denton Offut and Abraham Lincoln were ready for customers. Next they took over the mill. Both men slept in the store.

But the Offut store had a poor business location, and besides the owner was not shrewd enough to make ends meet. The clerk was far more interested in the human beings who came to buy than in the supplies they wanted, and those same customers soon became more interested in the good nature and humor displayed by the clerk. And then there was Abe's helper, "Slicky Bill" Greene. Within six months the Offut store failed, and Offut himself was forced to flee the village on account of his debts.

**M**EANWHILE, young Lincoln was rapidly maturing and gaining the respect of his fellow-villagers. At the Winter meetings of the New Salem Debating Society he impressed his hearers. Wrote R. B. Rutledge after one such occasion: "The president, at his fireside after the meeting, remarked to his wife that there was more than wit and fun in Abe's head; that he was already a fine speaker; that all he lacked

was culture to enable him to reach the high destiny that he knew was in store for him."

Abe, perhaps, gained his great-

est recognition through his herculean strength. The Clary's Grove boys, who "trimmed the manes and tails of horses, cut girths, put stones under saddles so as to cause riders to be thrown mounting," spread terror throughout the Sangamon River valley. Challenged to a wrestling match with Jack Armstrong, leader of the gang, Lincoln caused considerable excitement and speculation by his acceptance. Denton Offut, who once had offered John Ferguson a set of china dishes to trounce Jack, made a \$10 bet with Bill Clary. Others bet trinkets, knives, money, and drinks. Not only did Abe win, but, needless to say, he gained the wholehearted support of the Greene-

Armstrong - Clary - Watkins machine.

**T**HE outbreak of the Black Hawk War in the Spring of 1832 found Capt. Abraham Lincoln, popularly elected, commanding a company consisting of the Clary's Grove boys and others from the neighborhood. Jack Armstrong was first sergeant.

None was more ignorant of military tactics than the captain himself, who, unable to give the right command to march his men through a gate in a fence, suddenly shouted, "Halt! This company will break ranks for two minutes and form again on the other side of that gate!"

An attempt by Lincoln to be elected to the State Legislature resulted in failure. Said this fellow whose "pantaloon didn't meet his shoes by 6 inches," in one of his rare campaign speeches: "Fellow Citizens, I presume you all know who I am—I am humble Abraham Lincoln. I have been solicited by many friends to become a candidate for the Legislature. My politics are short and sweet, like the old woman's dance. I am in favor of a national bank. I am in favor of the internal improvement system and a high protective tariff. These are my sentiments and political principles. If elected I shall be thankful; if not, it will all be the same."

**A** STORE partnership with William F. Berry ended in the Spring of 1833, when the latter bought young Lincoln's share with promissory notes. The Berry-Lincoln store always had suffered financially because of Berry's fondness for liquor and Lincoln's absorption in reading and conversation. Berry died in 1835, leaving Abe Lincoln with \$1100 worth of debts, which were not fully paid till 1848.

The feeling of a goal achieved came to young Lincoln in 1834 when he was at last elected to the State Legislature, and re-elected in 1836. In his second term he pushed through a measure for removal of the state cap-



ital from Vandalia to Springfield. Many times he trudged between New Salem and Springfield over the trail which today is called the Lincoln National Memorial Highway, and over which today the Boy Scouts of Springfield hike in their numerous pilgrimages to the village in which Lincoln spent probably the most formative years of his life.

The influence over Abraham Lincoln of the people living in New Salem and the surrounding communities must have been tremendous. They were the people who laid the foundation for the great understanding and sympathy which eventually guided Lincoln to Washington. They were the backbone of the nation. From the South had come the Clarys, Armstrongs, Kirbys, Potters, Rutledges, Camrongs, Greenes, Lukinses, Onstots, and Berrys—all as families. From the North had come individuals—Hill, Dr. John Allen, McNeil, and Dr. Francis Regnier. They were farmers, coopers, blacksmiths, hatters, cobblers, saloon-keepers, millers, doctors, store-keepers.

AND as store-keeper, milhand, soldier, postmaster, surveyor, legislator—but always as simply “plain old Abe”—Lincoln mingled with them and discussed their problems in their language and on their terms.

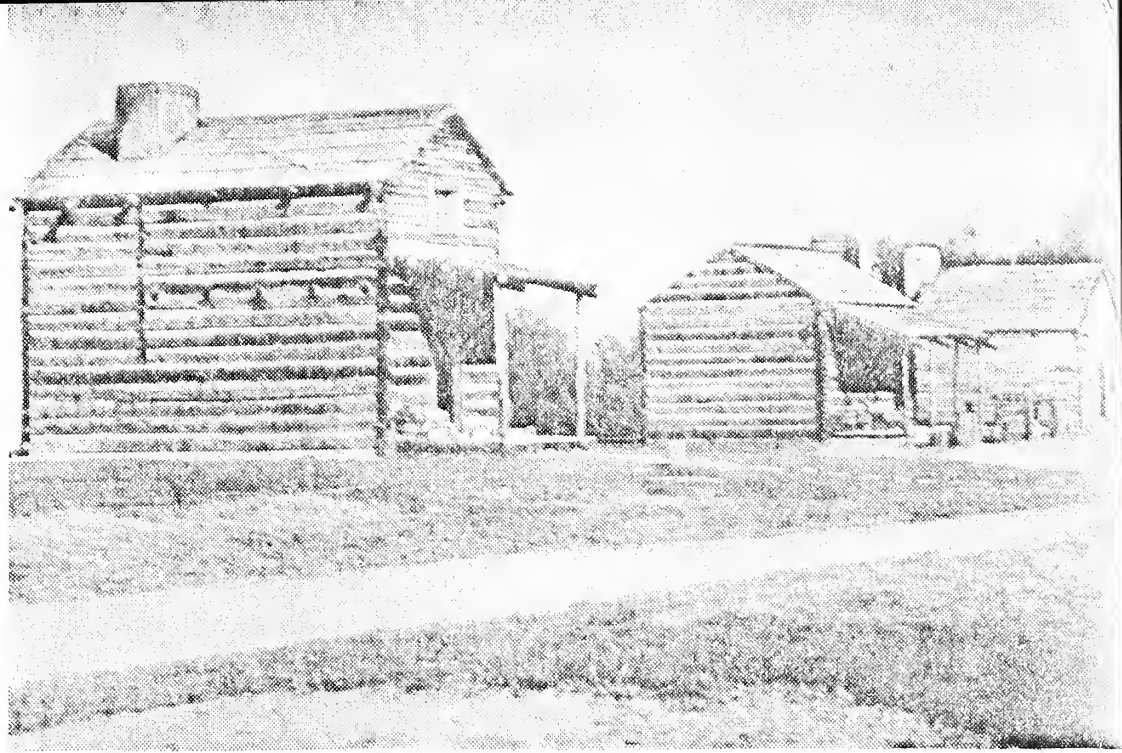
About such activities as house-raising, quilting-parties, wolf hunts, camp meetings, dances, and militia musters the people had no difficulties. But matters like religion and drinking aroused some differences of opinion. New Salem never had a church, the inhabitants holding their services in the school-house, the cemetery, private homes, and even in the tavern. The strongest sects in that region were the “Hardshell” Baptists, the Cumberland Presbyterians, and the Methodists. Lincoln was regarded as belonging among the sceptics who read radical writers like Tom Paine.

Dr. Allen was so strict a Sabbatarian that he would not practice on the Sabbath.

To offset the reputation of New Salem as a place where hard liquor flowed freely and often, Dr. Allen organized a temperance society, but his

greatest opposition came from church members, “most of whom had their barrels of whisky at home.”

WHEN two members were simultaneously dismissed from a Baptist church in the vicinity—one for joining Dr. Allen's temperance society, and the other for intoxication—a third member jumped to his feet, waved a flask, and shouted: “Brethering, it seems to me you are not sistenant (consistent) because you have turned out one man for taking the pledge and



—This section of restored New Salem includes, left to right, the two-story home of Samuel Hill, the Hill-McNamar store, and the Berry-Lincoln store. It was in the latter that Lincoln served the first part of his postmastership. He later distributed letters and read newspapers in the Hill-McNamar place.

another for getting drunk. Now, brethering, how much of this critter have a got to drink to have good standing amongst you?”

But while such questions were distressing some people, Abe Lincoln consistently strove for an education beyond his less than a year of formal schooling. As he intensified his acquaintance with books, relying less and less on physical prowess, his friends accused him of being lazy.

From Mentor Graham he doubtless learned grammar and mathematics, while Jack Kelso

probably introduced him to Shakespeare and Burns. Others who may have influenced Lincoln were Dr. Regnier and Dr. Allen, the latter of whom was a graduate of the Dartmouth Medical School.

IN THE latter part of his residence at New Salem, young Lincoln received a blow which some writers claim he never forgot, while others go so far as to doubt everything concerned. The commonly-accepted story, however, is that in 1832 Abe boarded at the Rutledge tavern and slept in the Rutledge loft. While there he did not fail to meet a pretty girl about 19 years old, with blue eyes and black hair. She was one of nine children! her name was Ann Rutledge.

Lincoln was now in love for the first time, but Ann was betrothed to James McNeil; and besides, McNeil was one of Abe's closest friends. Suddenly one day, however, McNeil confessed to Ann that his real name was McNamar

and that he had assumed his present name to avoid being traced by poor relatives in the East—whereupon McNeil McNamar conveniently departed for New York. Abe proposed to Ann, who had meantime moved to nearby Sand Ridge with her family. An engagement resulted. In the Summer of 1835 Ann fell ill, and on Aug. 25 she died of typhoid fever.

For days Lincoln could neither eat nor sleep. Wrote Ann's brother: “The effect upon Mr. Lincoln's mind was terrible. He became plunged in despair, and many of his friends feared that reason would desert her throne.

IN THE Summer of 1836, however, Abe jokingly told Mrs. Bennett Able that he would marry her sister, Mary Owens, if

She would return from Kentucky with the tall, robust, curly-headed girl who had visited in New Salem three years before. Mrs. Able did return with her sister, and Lincoln once more fell seriously in love. But Mary Owens rejected him because he was “deficient in those little links which make up the chain of a woman's happiness.”

This young Lincoln saw the pioneer village on the Sangamon River almost at its very origin, at its height, and in its decline. For the life of New Salem extended from Oct. 23, 1829—when Reuben Harrison surveyed it for James Rutledge and John Camrton—to May 30, 1836, when the postoffice in the Hill-McNamar store was closed for good.



The village had reached its peak in 1832, shortly after the *Talisman*, a small steamer from Cincinnati, had managed to pass through a break in the New Salem dam and proceed to within a few miles of Springfield. Rumors of a steady navigation of the river had spread rapidly.

**B**UT the village by the Sangamon was destined to be short-lived. Already, in 1932, Peter Lukins and George Warburton had gone two miles down the river to found the town of Petersburg. And by 1833 even some of the original pioneers of New Salem had departed.

In the Spring of 1837 an abnormally tall, homely young man—his life exactly half over—rode in the direction of Springfield to practice law.

Gradually New Salem disappeared as cabins were torn down and dragged on skids to Petersburg, which on Feb. 15, 1839, was made county seat.

As decades passed, persons living near the extinct village occasionally suggested erecting some marker or monument in tribute to the place where a president of the United States had reached maturity. Across the river from the barren site, the Old Salem Chataugua held meetings which helped alive the memory of New Salem.

**B**UT it was not until 1906 that any definite action was taken to perpetuate the village founded 87 years before by James Rutledge and John Camron. In that year William Randolph Hearst lectured before the Old Salem Chataugua, after which he was shown the site of the vanished settlement. The result was that Mr. Hearst bought 62 acres embracing the site for \$11,000 from Jacob Bale, who had acquired the land. Mr. Hearst then gave this property in trust to the Chataugua Association.

In January, 1917, the residents of Petersburg established the Old

Salem Lincoln League, with 50 charter members, to create and maintain interest in New Salem and to conduct research.

The year 1918 marked the centennial of Illinois' admission to the Union, an excellent time to start a campaign for restoration of New Salem. So on Jan. 4 the Old Salem Lincoln League staged a pageant on the site, which meanwhile the Chataugua Association had offered as a state park.

**T**HIS pageant had the desired effect. Soon visitors started to come from all parts of the United States to see where Abraham Lincoln had lived.

On April 3, 1918, the Illinois State Legislature accepted the 62 acres as a state park and promised that eventually the village of New Salem would be restored just as it had appeared when Lincoln was there. A museum was constructed and 20 more acres purchased.

An appropriation of \$50,000 by the State Legislature to the Department of Public Works and Buildings, received the approval of Gov. Louis Lincoln Emerson on July 16, 1932. The painstaking task of the actual reconstruction of New Salem was at last under way.

**O**N Nov. 17, 1932, Gov. Emerson laid the cornerstone, situated in the foundation of the old Berry-Lincoln store. By 1934, 12 cabins had been rebuilt, and 18 by last year.

"Many monuments have been erected to Lincoln's memory, but none like this," said the late William E. Barton in an address at New Salem. And no statement can be truer. So far as Mr. Barton was aware from his extensive historical background, "there is

no other instance in which a town that had once been inhabited and had been deserted has come into being again, not for purposes of residence or of commerce, but because of the sojourn within its gates of one particular man."

As the present writer learned from a recent conversation with Herbert Wells Fay, custodian of the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield, there is a difference between a museum and a memorial: a museum has a thousand things in a thousand places, while a memorial has a thousand things in one place. The restored village of New Salem is a memorial.

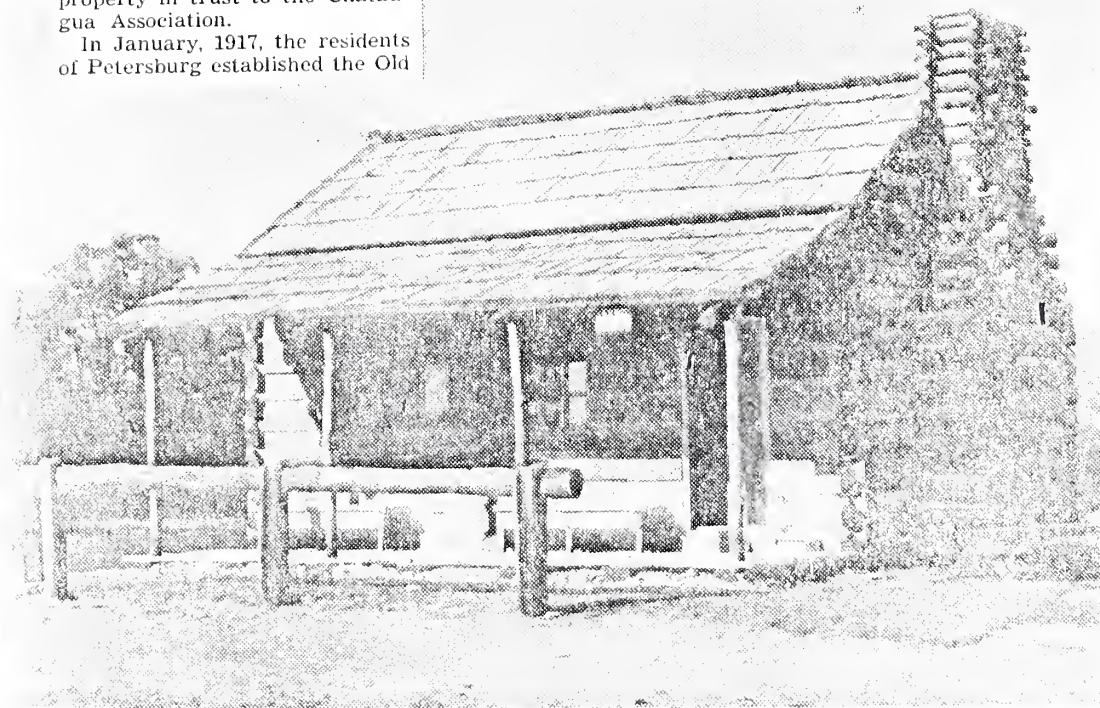
**H**ENRY ONSTOT'S cooper shop is the only structure in the reconstructed village that actually stood in New Salem over 100 years ago. Moved to Petersburg in 1840, the shop was used there by Onstot for many years. Later is served as a residence, until 1922, when the Old Salem Lincoln League bought it and returned it to its original location. It was in that shop that young Lincoln studied by the light of burning shavings.

From old houses and sheds in the surrounding region has come the timber for the other cabins.

The Hill-McNamar store, the Berry-Lincoln store, Trent Brothers store, and Denton Offut's store are the best introduction to what the people of New Salem bought over a century ago. Clocks, shoes, calico bolts, buttons, log raisers, axes, stone churns, dishes, kettles, jars, candle-molds, iron cowbells, muskets, clay pipes, augers, hunting knives, hoes, rock candy, cocoa, sheep bells, waffle irons, hash choppers, side saddles with plush seats, bean pots, pocket flasks, andirons—such are only a few of the articles the visitor to New Salem sees.

Two millstones from the Rutledge-Camron mill of 1829 rest on the ground, and everywhere are hand-split rails setting off gardens and chicken-runs. Corn cribs, cold cellars, smoke houses, stables, wells, and ash-hoppers are present. Even tree stumps and plants have been provided.

**N**OT intended as a part of the reconstructed village, yet fascinating in itself, is a small stone structure containing various objects of general interest in regard to the original settlement and its inhabitants. Here we find the side-saddle owned by Ann Rutledge, a sausage stuffer and lard press, the table used in Abe's law office in Springfield, early survey work done by Lincoln, Jack Armstrong's wallet, Lincoln's surveying instruments, coverlet and home-spuns photographs of the Lincoln family, a carving of Lincoln made on a sycamore tree growing out of the cellar of Offut's store, and the Rutledge family Bible.



A closer view of the Hill-McNamar store around which the birthday celebration will center on Monday. The postoffice will be dedicated anew and collectors will watch for first-day covers and other such intriguing philatelic items. Postmaster General James A. Farley will speak at this celebration.



### Exactly Restored

"So careful were the restorers that often the original foundation stones were found and built upon. All the old buildings that had been sledded to Petersburg had gone with time or accident—all except the Onstott cooper shop where Abe had studied by the light of pine leftovers. This was found in very good condition, almost a century after its being moved to Petersburg and it is now back on its old foundation, exactly as it was in Lincoln's day.

"In fact, the whole place is exactly as Abe knew it, the same cord beds reproduced in the cabins, the same implements, tools, furniture, and so on, many of them actual relics of Old Salem, all of them relics of that period. Early American pewter ware, flax shuttles, corn meal chests, candle molds, earthenware, are there, and the doctors' offices are lined with the same medical texts, odd surgical instruments, and unusual-shaped bottles. There is the church cabin, the school, and in the stores are the whiskey barrels and calico bolts."



**BIRTHPLACE OF LINCOLN, Hodgenville, Ky.** offers the tourist a host of historic and scenic interests. This statue of the Great Emancipator in the town square is a highlight of the Lincoln Memorial Highway.



*The restored Miller and Kelso log cabin home and Joshua Miller's blacksmith shop at New Salem, Ill.*

## Millers' Grandson Was Madison's Weatherman

rough a century and more by the family descendants and relatives wherever they roamed. In recent years these items have been donated to the restored Miller-Kelso home on New Salem hill.

About two years ago, Eric Miller sent Mrs. Pond, for replacement in his grandparents' cabin home, a sugar bowl which saw years of mealtime service at New Salem, and which for 36 years was in Eric's home in Madison. This bowl, in leaf and oak pattern, speaks eloquently of the prevailing Staffordshire blue of the period.

Though one ear is battered up a bit, he looks at it with deep feeling; though laze-checked and yellowed somewhat, it is to be admired and cherished for what it says to you, for it recaptures the past with its fidelity to the Lincoln period. In one of Eric's letters to Mrs. Pond he stated that his grandparents had told their children and grandchildren that Lincoln had served himself sugar from this bowl.

For many years Joshua Miller's grandparents, Maud Miller Wilson, had been the family keeper of another cherished family keepsake—a handmade rolling pin of wood. This belonged in that early day to Jack and Hannah Kelso, and many a crust was smoothed out with the application of Hannah's steady turning. This pin now may be seen in the restored Kelso cabin, across the breezeway from Miller's door.

Shortly before his death, Eric Miller wrote that he was sending the large family Bible which belonged to his grandparents, but death intervened. A few months later, however, Mrs. Miller sent to Mrs. Pond to be placed in the Miller cabin, the same Joshua and Nancy Miller family Bible, published in Boston in 1834. On its pages between the Testaments the family births and deaths are recorded.

Dominated by a handhewn four-postered and great all-purpose fireplace, dishes of the period, dropleaf walnut table and handmade chairs, the Miller cabin may be destined to draw from the Eric Miller friendship circle increasing numbers of "repeaters" and "first-timers" to gaze within the open doorway of the smith's cozy home and to think aloud.

"So this is where Eric's grandpa lived—and walked and talked with Lincoln! It looks so comfortable here; I wish I could live here too."



# LINCOLN'S NEW SALEM LIVES AGAIN AS RESTORATION OF VILLAGE PROCEEDS

Illinois Seeks to Perpetuate Six Formative Years That Abe Lived There

## First Public Office

Lincoln's first appointment to a public office, that of postmaster, was received in New Salem. Shortly after that he was also made a deputy surveyor, and he quickly mastered the science of surveying. Later his community elected him as a member of the legislative assembly. It also was while he lived here that Lincoln met Ann Rutledge, fell in love with her, and then, in a few years, mourned her death.

Only two years before Lincoln came to New Salem, the village had been opened by James Rutledge and John Cameron. They built a grist and sawmill, laid out the town, and started selling lots. By 1835 the village had reached its peak with some 30 cabins and a population of 175 inhabitants. In 1839, two years after Lincoln left, the county seat was established in Petersburg, and New Salem declined rapidly. Some of the buildings were torn down and the logs removed to Petersburg. Soon nothing remained but a wind swept hill overlooking the Sangamon river.

In 1906 William Randolph Hearst, the publisher, spoke at the Old Salem chautauqua, which was located across the river from where the village had stood. The leaders of the chautauqua association showed Hearst the site of the abandoned village and told him of their great desire to reserve the land for the public. The publisher became interested, purchased the 60 acres comprising the original town site and gave the land to the association.

## Village Lives Again

Now, 100 years after the decline of New Salem, the village lives again.

Sixteen of the cabins have been rebuilt on the original sites. Many of these are furnished as they were in the 1830s. Some of the articles were actually used by the people of New Salem; others date back to the same period.

Lincoln lived in several different homes while he was in New Salem. He was helpful about the house and often rocked the baby of the family while the mother mended his clothes. For a year he stayed at the Rutledge tavern.

The Lincoln-Berry store looks very much as it did in the days when Lincoln weighed out a pound of tea, or told his entertaining stories to an admiring group around the fireplace. There is the long counter similar to the one on which Lincoln sometimes slept when the tavern was crowded, and he gave up his own room to a tired traveler. The lean-to at the back of the store served as a storeroom and, for a time, as Lincoln's bedroom.

Often when business was dull, Lincoln sat out in front of the store in the shade, with his feet up the side of the tree there, studying law. His partner, William Berry, spent much of his time drinking.

